

WEEKLY FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



edfENERGY London and South of England Media Awards

FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk

July 12, 2015

Mid edition No 668



EVENTS

Sun shines on county show

Big crowds flock to Kent's big weekend

Picture by Eli Hoskins

FIRE

Probe into city blaze

Families homeless after inferno

TRAVEL

PM demand over Stack

MPs call for meeting with Cameron

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Kent on Sunday

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Don't let Stack spoil the county's celebrations

FOR anyone who likes a dose of irony to present them with the opportunity of a wry smile, then a combination of events over this weekend will have allowed them a chance to properly enjoy themselves.

Because as thousands of people flocked to Detling to enjoy the annual showcase of all that is good about our proud county over the three-day Kent County Show, they did so while having to navigate around the perils of what is fast becoming one of our most shameful exports.

Operation Stack reflects so poorly on the county in so many respects. While in place, it is like having a sign plonked in the centre of the map telling tourists 'Do not visit here' in flashing bright pink neon. And understandably too. Who wants to spend their spare time in a traffic jam after all?

But it also delivers an almighty kick to



Editor **Chris Britcher**

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the delicate area to those of us who live and work in this beautiful corner of the world. Where a journey to work becomes an epic expedition in soaring temperatures while our blood pressure reaches new highs.

For all the wonderful aspects the county show displays, Stack provides the flipside.

And it's made worse, of course, by the fact its recent deployment has been due to action in France. Now, the French are quite entitled to strike, and we should be quick to

guard against a whiff of xenophobia spreading across the county, but someone, somewhere needs to eliminate Kent becoming embroiled in the bargaining process. It is not fair the county pays such a high price.

But let's not dwell on the negative. Kent is better than Stack and we will not let it dent our pride this weekend.

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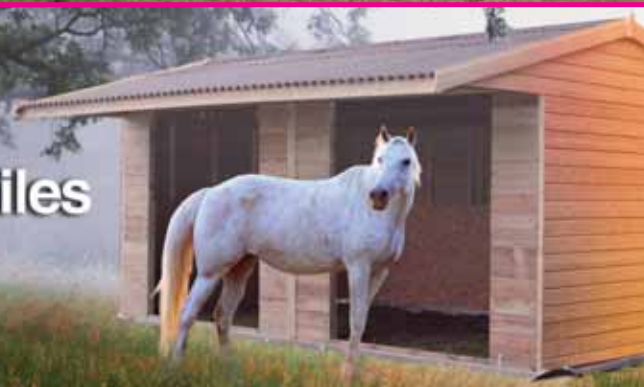
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Our schools face 'crisis' over rising pupil numbers

By Jamie Weir

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EDUCATION chiefs say a number of the county's secondary schools are 'vulnerable' to closure due to poor performance or financial pressure.

And this despite the fact predictions suggest more school places will be needed as pupil numbers rise within the next decade.

It led one leading schools commentator to declare the county was heading for a 'crisis' unless immediate action is taken.

The remarks were made during a discussion at County Hall this week, discussing a new report examining future provision of secondary education in the county.

The county council's education director, Patrick Leeson said the situation was likely to grow critical over the next few years, with 11 schools judged 'vulnerable' to closure. Mr Leeson said: "This is a big issue for us. We have to deliver a significant number of additional places in the coming years.

"At the moment we have a situation where if some of that is going to be delivered by expanding



TROUBLE: A crisis could be on the cards in secondary education unless something is done now

secondary schools, a good number of those schools are facing significant funding and standards issues."

The report found there are currently too few youngsters coming through primary schools to justify the current level of secondary schools.

Gravesend-based education consultant Peter Read said the situation was deeply concerning.

He told KoS: "There is a real

crisis in secondary education coming, and right now, plans need to be made to ensure we can meet future demand.

"Without something being done now, we'll reach a tipping point where it will be increasingly difficult to meet demand.

"The trouble is that KCC don't have the authority to get new schools built."

Roger Gough, KCC cabinet member for education, says that

won't be a problem, but insists the authority's main focus is helping those vulnerable schools get the support necessary to ensure standards are high to support the rise in pupils coming up.

Last month saw the closure of the Chaucer school in Canterbury – forced to shut its gates after poor Ofsted reports saw pupil numbers tumble to unsustainable numbers.

Schools' financing is linked to the number of pupils attending.

MPs call for an urgent meeting with PM over issues caused by Stack

KENT MPs have called for an urgent meeting with Davod Cameron to discuss Operation Stack.

They have written to the PM with their grave concerns for the continuing situation and the devastating effect it is having on both people's lives and local businesses.

They hope Mr Cameron can work with French president Francois Hollande, to bring to an end the ongoing disruptions across the Channel.

Also, Maidstone and the Weald MP, Helen Grant, has met with the secretary of state, Patrick McLoughlin and been in close contact with transport minister, Robert Goodwill, to find out what the Government are doing to resolve this issue.

Mrs Grant says she has been told the Department for Transport is continuing to work with Highways England and Kent County Council to manage and make improvements to Operation Stack.

The Conservative MP for Maid-

stone said: "This is a dreadful situation, not only for my constituents but for the whole of Kent. I understand completely the frustration and anger felt by many.

"I will continue to do all I can to put pressure where it is needed to bring this ordeal to an end. I will also be seeking regular updates from the Department for Transport."

■ As KoS went to press, Operation Stack was still in force threatening to cause problems across the weekend. With the Kent County Show (see page 19) and an open air classical concert at Leeds Castle on Saturday, there were fears roads in and around Maidstone could find themselves gridlocked.

This week's problems were caused by reduced capacity on the Dover to Calais route and the death on Tuesday of a migrant, who tried to board a train in Calais at the Eurotunnel terminal, which disrupted Eurotunnel and Eurostar services.

Cruel knife crooks target victim pushing wheelchair

A CARE worker pushing a man in a wheelchair, has been robbed by two men at knife-point, in an alleyway in Maidstone.

Now police are appealing for help in finding the two men following the incident which happened in broad daylight on Friday, July 3 at around 10.40am.

The victim was walking down the alley near Froyle Close in the

direction of London Road, when two men approached him, threatened him with a three-inch knife and demanded his wallet.

When he refused, he was repeatedly punched in the head.

One of the offenders then snatched a rucksack attached to the wheelchair before they fled with wallets belonging to both the victim and the man in the wheelchair.

Tory stalwart slams efforts to repeal fox hunting ban

CONSERVATIVE back-bencher Sir Roger Gale has described efforts to start the repeal of the Hunting Act – potentially heralding the return of fox hunting – as "completely out of step with the wishes of the majority of the public".

Thanet North MP Sir Roger, who is president of Conservative Animal Welfare and patron of Blue

Fox, a Tory group opposed to fox hunting, expressed concerns ahead of the start of proceedings, planned for Wednesday.

He said: "The hunting of wild animals with dogs has been consigned to the dustbin of history, along with cockfighting and bear-baiting, and the idea that this clock ought to be turned back is regressive and unpleasant."



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Historic tower remains hope for funding boost

REMAINS of a tower dating back to the 16th century, could be set for a £130,000 investment programme - if council chiefs give the scheme the go-ahead at a meeting this week.

Oxford Palace Tower, a scheduled ancient monument, is the remains of the former Archbishop's Palace which dates back to 1515.

Sevenoaks District Council, which owns the site, will now consider a report when its cabinet meets on July 16 and announce a final decision at its meeting on July 21.

Tony Searles, cabinet member for finance, said: "If funding is agreed, these works could potentially open the doors to other external sources of funding for the long-term preservation of the ruins."

Campaign group applies pressure to controversial city housing proposals

By Jamie Weir

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RURAL campaign group CPRE Kent is preparing to go into battle over the Canterbury local plan which lays out plans to build a staggering 15,600 homes over the next 16 years.

The charity - the local arm of national organisation the Campaign to Protect Rural England - was left fuming after Canterbury City Council failed to conduct further consultation after it raised its housing target from 10,200 new homes by 2026 to 15,600 by 2031 - an additional 270 homes being built every year.

It comes as a government inspector starts reviewing the proposals this Tuesday.

Not only does the local plan include housing plans - much of it to the south of the city - but also a £70 million transport strategy.

CPRE Kent says the council should have consulted the public again when increasing the housing target.

Instead, it used previous



ROW: City building plans

environmental reports.

CPRE Kent's senior planner Brian Lloyd said: "The council is pressing ahead with its flawed plan. The council has seemingly, from the outset, cast in stone the sites it wants to

see developed, and despite high levels of public opposition it has not been prepared to consider alternatives. We will be participating fully at the examination to put our case that the plan is unsound."

The charity commissioned a top planning barrister to examine the council's plans last year.

The expert's findings questioned the plan, judging it was not legally compliant because when the housing target was raised, the council failed to re-examine the environmental impact.

Mr Lloyd said: "We hope the inspector will listen to us and to communities and ask Canterbury to come up with a more reasonable, realistic and sustainable plan which is properly assessed and consulted on."

A council spokesman said: "All of these matters will be discussed at the examination run by the independent inspector."

The plan's examination begins on Tuesday (July 14) at The Franciscan International Study Centre, Giles Lane, Canterbury.



WINNER: Kent Life editor Sarah Sturt

Kent Life wins top magazine title at awards

KENT Life magazine has been named Kent Magazine of the Year at the first-ever Kent Press and Broadcast Awards.

The sister title of Kent on Sunday, beat off stiff opposition to lift the title at a special ceremony at the home of Kent County Cricket Club in Canterbury.

Editor Sarah Sturt said: "I am delighted. I would like to thank my wonderful freelance writers who support me so brilliantly, the magnificent photography of Manu Palomeque and the rest of our team."

The awards were hosted by veteran broadcaster Peter Sissons, who lives in Sevenoaks.

Kent on Sunday was a finalist in the Newspaper of the Year category but lost out to the Dover Express.

Reporters Jamie Weir and Sarah Linney were both also nominated for top awards.

The inaugural event saw BBC South East's Colin Campbell winning Kent Journalist of the Year and the KM's Steve Tervet, formerly of KoS, winning the Kent Sport Journalist of the Year Award for print and the BBC's ever popular Neil Bell winning for broadcast.

Nashreen Issa, from ITV Meridian, was named Kent Feature Journalist of the Year.

Cops seize booze as 200 party on beach

POLICE seized more than 150 bottle and cans of alcohol from under-age drinkers after a 200-strong party on the beach at Tankerton, near Whitstable, last Friday night.

The party had been organised through social media despite warnings last month that patrols were being increased in the area.

Sergeant Nick Barton, of Canterbury district community safety unit, said six officers spent two-and-a-half hours at the beach confiscating alcohol and disrupting rowdy and anti-social behaviour.

Sgt Barton said: "In all, officers confiscated more than 150 bottles and cans of alcohol, about half of which were poured away there and then and the rest was seized to be disposed of later."

"As well as the alcohol our officers found several empty canisters of nitrous oxide - more commonly known as laughing gas - which we believe had probably been used by some of the young people on Friday evening."

Creative Quarter set for £7m rejuvenation

A MAJOR multi-million scheme to transform Folkestone's Creative Quarter is set to start this autumn.

Announced this week by the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust, which has been behind much of the town's regeneration, it has pledged £7 million for the redevelopment.

Several buildings, which the trust says are in a state of disrepair, will be extensively reconfigured and refurbished to provide new living, retail and office spaces in the area. The work is subject to planning permission.

Project director of the trust, Gabrielle Wilson, said: "We have an excellent team of professional designers working to create imaginative and durable buildings which will be very attractive to creative people wanting to relocate to Folkestone. All these buildings should be ready by the time of the next Triennial Exhibition in 2017."

As many as 24 new residential units could be built, with 13 other spaces for other uses such as education or entertainment.

Factory stormed by 'drone' protesters

PROTESTERS shut down a factory in Broadstairs on Monday as part of a protest to commemorate the one year anniversary of a bomb attack in Gaza.

The campaigners, from a group called Block the Factory Kent, swarmed the Instro Precision Ltd factory on the Pysons Road industrial estate, with some scaling the roof, and one chaining himself to the gate by the neck. They alleged it was over links between the company and military drones.

The protest was one of a number around the world staged by a group calling themselves Block the Factory. Other protests took part in Staffordshire and Australia.

Amnesty International claim engines built in Instro factories have been used in drones to attack civilians in Gaza.

Instro Precision in Broadstairs describes itself as "the first call in supplying the world's militaries, enforcement agencies and industry with electro-optic surveillance, and tactical support equipment".

Crowds watch demolition of power station turbine hall

By Molly Kersey

molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

PART of one the River Medway's most significant landmarks was blown up this week in a controlled explosion but much of it, including its distinctive tower, still stands tall.

The 35-metre high turbine hall at Kingsnorth Power Station on the Hoo Peninsula once housed the boiler and four 500MW turbo-generators.

But on Thursday at 1pm, some 2,000 tonnes of steel came crashing down as part of the on-going clearance of the 1.6km site.

A spokesman said the explosion went smoothly and was successful.

Owned by energy firm E.ON, the 2,000MW coal-fired plant stopped generating electricity back in March 2013.

Its closure was to meet the EU's Large Combustion Plant Directive, which requires plants that do not have modern pollution equipment to reduce emissions, to close after 20,000 hours of operation from January 1, 2008 or the end of 2015, which ever comes first.

Many of the smaller buildings at Kingsnorth Power Station have already been removed but the turbine hall, due to its scale and visibility on the Medway skyline, marks a significant milestone in the demolition of



BOOM: Turbine hall turned to dust at Kingsnorth on Hoo. Picture: MARK TURNER

the 2,000MW coal-fired plant.

Neil Wright, demolition project manager at E.ON, said: "From a project perspective, we're really pleased with our progress to date. But as we start to remove the main infrastructure at the heart of the plant, I'm sure the upcoming demolition will be tinged with sadness for some who worked at Kingsnorth during the 33 years it was in operation."

The plant's 198m chimney is still to be demolished but is expected to finally fall in 2017. E.ON has not yet declared its plans for the

site once the tower and remaining building is cleared, although it is thought it will retain it with a view of potentially using it for alternative technologies in the future.

The power station hit the headlines in 2008 when the Camp for Climate Action protested outside the site, prompting angry scenes of confrontation with the police, followed by a Greenpeace protest two months later.

Both protests were over pollution concerns.

Owner's life dog ban after kicking his pet

A THUG who kicked his pet so hard the Staffordshire bull terrier could no longer stand and needed veterinary treatment, has been disqualified from keeping dogs for life and ordered to do 120 hours of unpaid community work.

Robbie Knight, 29, of St John's Crescent, Tyler Hill, Canterbury, pleaded guilty this week before Folkestone magistrates to one charge of unnecessary suffering under the Animal Welfare Act.

Careful with sprinkler warns water firm

SOUTH East Water is urging gardeners to avoid using sprinklers as the hot summer weather continues - by saying brown lawns will recover next time it rains.

Lee Dance, head of water resources, said: "Leave the lawn to look after itself. Nature is a wonderful thing. It will bounce back when it rains."

Fire alarm reminder

FIREFIGHTERS have reissued warnings about disconnecting fire alarms after a woman was taken to hospital after a fire broke out in her bedroom in Dartford.

The fire in Olive Road was started when a pillow brushed against a candle. The owner had unplugged her alarm and woke only when the fire was well alight.

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Club mourns footballer who collapsed and died on pitch

FOOTBALL fans across Kent have been mourning the loss of a 23-year-old player who collapsed during a non-league pre-season match this week and died shortly after.

Junior Dian (pictured) was playing his first trial game for Ryman League Tonbridge Angels on Tuesday night at Whyteleafe in Surrey. But just minutes after coming on the pitch he collapsed. Despite desperate efforts to revive him and being rushed to St George's Hospital in nearby Tooting, he died later that night.

There had been no sign that he was unwell.

Now sports minister and MP for Chatham and Aylesford, Tracey Crouch, has spoken in the House of Commons to ask the government to



look into heart screening programmes in sport.

Tonbridge club chairman, Steve Churcher said: "Junior's death is devastating news and our only crumb of comfort is that he lost his

life doing something he obviously enjoyed so much. All our thoughts and sympathies are with his family."

The club dedicated its match this weekend to his memory.

Ashes hero confirms his retirement from cricket

FORMER Kent cricketer and one of the heroic 2005 England Ashes winning squad, Geraint Jones, confirmed this week he is retiring from the sport at the end of the current season.

The 38-year-old left St Lawrence last season to join county rivals Gloucestershire where he was appointed club captain. He said: "It's been something I've been thinking about quite strongly in the last few weeks and I've come to the decision that this season will be my last as a cricket player."

"But it's on a positive note that I've made the decision. Yes the family side has been a big consideration but ultimately it's about what's best for Gloucestershire and this squad."

"Over the last few weeks I felt there were guys who needed an

opportunity and my place in the team was potentially that opportunity."

The wicketkeeper was a key component of the England team that finally ended years of hurt when it finally reclaimed the Ashes in a series proclaimed by many as the greatest ever. He will long be remembered for the diving catch which dismissed Micahel Kasprovicz at Edgbaston which saw England secure a narrow two-run win.

However, when he was surprisingly selected for the 2006/7 Ashes tour Down Under, his critics feasted on a disappointing display and he was dropped.

Having joined Kent in 2001, he was a popular team member and was part of the Twenty20 Cup winning team of 2007.

Battle of Britain coin

THE Royal Mint has this week released a range of limited edition coins to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Britain which raged above the skies of Kent 75 years ago this summer.

The coins include two specially-designed 50 pence pieces.

Painting hits record price

A PORTRAIT by British artist Maurice Greiffenhagen reached a record £24,000 after being sold at the Canterbury Auction Galleries - way above its estimate.

The works had been in the possession of Gillingham chemist owner Robert Wardley who died in 1984.

Christmas Day rapist

ROMANIAN Tudor Tofoi, 21, has been found guilty of raping a woman after dragging her off the street as she walked home in the early hours of Christmas Day in Dover.

She was attacked by two men - the hunt continues for the other suspect. Tofoi will be sentenced on August 14.

BBC show at the castle

POPULAR BBC1 TV show the Antiques Roadshow will be filming at Walmer Castle next Sunday, July 19.

Fiona Bruce and her team of experts will be at the historic site between 9.30am and 4.30pm, with free entry for those wishing to go along and get their rare items valued.

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Top Three Stories



- 1. Stack causes chaos
Another week of road trouble on the M20
- 2. Tragic footballer death
Tonbridge mourn passing of player
- 3. Canterbury city blaze
Fire rips through apartment block

The Essential Guide:



London Paramount Resort
All you need to know: <http://bit.ly/1Dyv4jp>



FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: Penshurst Place was turned into a mass of colour during its 5km Run or Dye event last weekend. We had all the photos online earlier this week. You can see a selection in this issue, by turning inside.

All the news, all week

NEWS updated seven days a week by the KoS team at www.kentnews.co.uk



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Top Three Blogs



- 1. Whitstable's big dilemma
Is it about to disappear up its own backside?
- 2. Fighting the assumptions
Why TV ad is fuelling female confidence
- 3. A strange wedding show
Channel 4 show highlights basic mistake

Results of the KoS Online Poll

Where should the next Thames Crossing go?

1	Dartford	61 per cent
2	East of Gravesham	35 per cent
3	Don't know	4 per cent

See www.kentnews.co.uk for more polls



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Saturdays - £4,935.00 - available on: 8, 15, August, 26, September, (usually £6,580.00)

24 October, 7, 14, November, 16, 23, 30 January, 6, 13, 20, 27 February, 5, 12, 19, 26 March (usually £5,810.00)

Additional day guests charged at £66pp, additional evening guests charged at £17.50pp

Sundays - £3,112.50 - available on: 9, 23, August, 13, 27, September, (usually £4,150.00)

4, October, 1, 8, 15, 22, November, 10, 17, 24, 31 January, 7, 14, 21, 28 February, 6, 13, 27 March (usually £3,600.00)

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All dates subject to availability at time of enquiry



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MC - James Redmond - As seen on Emmerdale, Coronation Street, Hollyoaks, Holby City, **Opener - Phil Reid** - 2014 Jokers joker of the year, **Middle - Keith Platt, Headliner 1 - Adam Kay** - Known for the London Underground Song & Creator of BBC3 show Crims, **Headliner 2 - Andrew Lawrence** - As seen on Stand up of the Week, Live at the Apollo, Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow, Dave's One night stand

6th November

MC - Paul Ricketts Opener - Bobby Murdock, Middle - Robert White - Musical comedy star **Headliner 1 - Nina Benjamin** - As seen on Big Brother's Big Mouth (Ch4), Edinburgh and Beyond (Comedy Central), **Headliner 2 - Mike Gunn** - As seen on Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow

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Just how did city centre flats go up in such devastating fashion?

Maria Chiorando on the huge fire which ripped through a development in Canterbury last weekend

A MAJOR investigation has been launched into a giant blaze that ripped through Canterbury last weekend, destroying properties and leaving families homeless.

In dramatic scenes on Saturday, it is believed a fire broke out in a boiler in a utility room of one of the flats which quickly took hold.

On what was already a red-hot day, the flames ripped through the former tannery building, leaving plumes of smoke drifting across the historic city's skyline.

Stunned motorists on the city's main road which runs alongside the city walls, were amazed to see the flames leaping from the building, as fire crews on cranes attempted to bring it under control.

Having broken out around 2.30pm, it was still smouldering 24-hours later.

The fire broke out in a top floor apartment in Creine Mill Lane North – just off the St Peter's Roundabout on the Rheims Way.

It is thought 30 families had to be evacuated – with six told their homes are too damaged for them to return to.

A spokesman for property owner Town and Country Housing said: "Over last weekend and during the early part of this week we provided emergency accommodation for more than 40 families who were displaced as a result of the fire.

"While some were able to return home on Monday, the homes were still without water so many have cho-

sen to remain in temporary accommodation."

The company has demolished 1 to 5 City Wall Avenue, and has deemed another 11 homes uninhabitable. These will also be demolished.

According to the association: "We have been working with the council and agents to find suitable long term accommodation. Short-term emergency accommodation is being co-ordinated on site working mainly with the university which is able to offer a short term solution for the next couple of weeks.

"As you can imagine, the logistics and organisation have been challenging and as well as all the logistics we also have the emotional aspects to deal with. People have not only lost their homes but their contents too."

Questions have been raised about just how the flames were able to tear through the building, which is just seven years old, so quickly..

Some have questioned whether the timber construction may have played a part in the blaze, with fire crews saying the wood facilitated the quick spread of the flames.

Paul Flaherty, assistant director at Kent Fire and Rescue Service, said: "Crews worked very hard to get this fire under control in very challenging conditions – dealing with a four storey building that was well alight.

"The building is a timber framed construction and so the fire was able to spread very quickly among the frame voids. This meant it was a difficult fire to fight in the early stages. At its height we had ten engines in attendance."



DEVASTATED: The fire caused chaos to the flats and forced roads in Canterbury on a busy Saturday afternoon to be shut as fire crews set about tackling the flames in the four-storey building. Remarkably, no one was hurt.



Responding to allegations about the timber, Bellway Homes, the builders, said: "There are a number of forms of construction used in the UK, one of which is timber frame. Timber frame is used extensively throughout the UK, particularly in Scotland where extreme weather can be a factor.

"Timber frame has a broad range of advantages and is used extensively in the UK to provide sustainable buildings that tend to be more energy efficient, easier for homeowners to maintain and can be constructed quickly, safely and to a very high standard.

"Timber frame construction meets all the stringent building regulation requirements in the UK, as well as health and safety regulations, as monitored by the HSE, NHBC and other regulatory authorities.

"Bellway is constantly reviewing its various building procedures and use of different materials in light of evolving methods of construction.

"The health and safety of all who live in homes constructed by the company throughout the country is paramount

"Bellway and other interested parties, is carrying out a thorough investigation in relation to the fire at The Tannery to establish the precise cause or causes. We will be in a better position to report further when the investigation has been concluded."

Despite the scale of the fire, remarkably no-one was hurt, though many touching stories have emerged from the disaster, including that of Colette Scott whose flat was destroyed.

Writing on her Facebook page, the

young mother who lost her partner in an accident four years ago, said: "Devastated is not the word. Years of saving to give my kids a decent home has gone up in flames.

"My poor kids have been through hell and back and now they have lost their home. But one thing is sure I will rebuild our lives and carry on."

In the aftermath of the blaze, a number of items including food, clothing and bedding were donated for those who had lost their homes and belongings.

Conservative Westgate ward councillor John Brazier said: "This display of community spirit and togetherness in the face of adversity has brought a glimmer of hope to many and I am sure this Canterbury spirit will continue to help."



ALIGHT: Canterbury has rarely seen such remarkable scenes as those last Saturday as flames ripped through the homes on the former tannery site next to the city walls



AUSTERITY: Despite growth, chancellor George Osborne says the country will have to remain committed to its deficit reduction programme until 2019-2020

Chancellor's budget brings no clarity for pressured council

George Osborne's 'summer budget' has unveiled a raft of measures he says will boost the economy

MOVING away from an economy built on debt, as the chancellor, George Osborne said was his aspiration in Wednesday's 'summer budget', has seen significant pain for many, from welfare claimants, to local and county councils.

The mantra from the chancellor since he was first appointed to the position in May 2010 has been one of austerity, with the axe wielded on public spending at every level.

It has been a policy which has attracted criticism from Kent County Council, with finance member for the authority John Simmonds firing a shot over the chancellor's bow earlier in the week when he said KCC could bare no additional financial pain.

Cllr Simmonds doesn't yet know whether the chancellor has actually listened to him, as no announcement has been made on further cuts to public spending.

He told KoS: "We've got no idea what the effect on local government funding might be until an announcement is made in the autumn."

"That means there is still uncertainty, so we're having to work with our estimates, which indicate that cuts to our funding over the next two years would be 11 per cent in the first, and 12 per cent in the second year. That translates to around £79 million from a balance sheet which has already shrunk dramatically."

Despite the lack of clarity on local government funding, the councillor

said that some announcements during the budget would still have significant impacts on the council.

Cllr Simmonds said: "Although there aren't any direct impacts from this budget, there have been announcements which will affect KCC."

"If people are being hit with reduced working tax credits, and an enhanced benefits cap, it means KCC will have to pay more to help subsidise their council tax, as currently we pay council tax support."

A few straw figures we've come up with straight after the budget announcement indicate that if a person lost £30 per week from their benefits, we would have to provide around £6 a week towards that support."

Those indirect impacts are something Cllr Simmonds is keen to stress, but others in Kent say that on balance, there have been positive announcements in the budget.

The chief executive of Locate in Kent, which works to attract companies to the county, Paul Wookey welcomed many measures announced in the budget.

He told KoS: "The UK is already attractive to companies from overseas. The reduction in Corporation Tax from 2017 will make it even more so, helping us attract investment in Kent and Medway, and can only help persuade those already trading in Kent to stay and grow."

"Budget documents released after the Chancellor's speech also refer to science and innovation audits to support strategic focus in the regions. We

“ Devolving powers to vary shop opening times to local authorities and elected mayors is deregulation by the back door. It is a recipe for chaos... ”

John Hannett, general secretary of the union Usdaw

need to see more detail on this, but the principal is an encouraging one, given Kent's strong and growing offer for the life sciences sector."

One of the key principles which the chancellor wants to push during his tenure is the devolution of powers from Westminster to a more local level.

As part of that scheme he announced that local authorities would now be able to take their own decisions on Sunday trading restrictions - that potentially opens the door to longer opening hours for larger stores, which are only allowed to trade for six hours on a Sunday currently.

The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (Usdaw), which represents the interests of retail workers, slammed the plans, saying it could cause 'chaos', and branding the proposals 'deregulation by the back door.'

John Hannett, Usdaw general secretary, said: "Devolving powers to vary

shop opening times to local authorities and elected mayors is deregulation by the back door. It is a recipe for chaos in the retail sector which will result in numerous trading hours regulations across different areas, where we could see stores on opposite sides of a road operating in different regulatory regimes. That is hardly cutting 'red tape', a stated aim of the government."

"Extended Sunday trading is not good for business, because it spreads the same customer spend over a longer period. It isn't good for staff, who frequently tell us that Sunday is often the only day they get to spend quality time with their family. So we will be participating in the consultation and opposing the proposal."

Major retailers such as Asda and Morrisons have supported the plans, with Asda's chief executive Andy Clarke calling them 'common sense'.

But small businesses are concerned about the impact of allowing longer trading for bigger retailers, as currently only shops under 3,000 square feet can open for more than six hours.

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) - a campaign group that represents the interests of small business - says that there are more pressing concerns which the Government should address.

John Allan, chairman of the FSB, said: "The FSB remains concerned about the impact of any change to Sunday trading rules on smaller retailers. As well as assessing the potential impact of these measures, the Government should be taking a wider

holistic view to see what else can be done to support these businesses."

"Bringing forward reforms to business rates is an immediate priority. We should also do more on liberalising licensing laws, easing planning restrictions and on improving customers' access to parking. All are areas which are currently doing more to hold back the high street than Sunday trading. Under current proposals, the decision to change Sunday trading rules will be devolved to the local level. It is critical these local decision makers include small businesses in the debate."

"Local businesses are at the heart of our communities and the ones most likely to feel the direct impact of these proposals. Their concerns should be listened to, before any decision is made."

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce chief executive, Jo James told KoS the measures were unlikely to help.

She said: "Putting all our eggs in the basket of consumer spend will not deliver long-term, sustainable, great growth for the UK economy. The government needs to focus on promoting international trade and export - that is how we can rebalance the economy and help achieve our growth ambitions."

"Putting the decision in the hands of local councils will certainly give us inconsistencies across the county. Although many will find extended hours a convenient move, it will however, take away the competitive advantage that smaller stores currently have as the restriction only applied to stores of a certain size."



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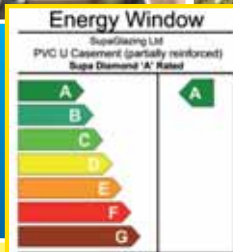
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RATING: On display and helping customers to make an informed choice about their food

How the 'Scores on the Doors' are raising levels of food hygiene



By Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

MOULDY food, out of date ingredients and cross-contamination of raw meat and fresh food are just some of the worrying issues found in establishments serving the public food in Kent, according to new data uncovered by our investigations team.

Five years ago, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) introduced a nationally standardised rating scheme which ranges from zero to five stars (see box).

Today the 'Scores on the Doors' sticker is a familiar sight in the window of many outlets, providing reassurance to customers.

We've looked at the results for every inspection in 2015 so far and found the average rating is 4.3 out of five - an encouraging 'good' or 'very good'.

There were, however, 17 places which received a zero rating and a further 208 were also classed as noncompliant, which means they scored two or fewer.

We've opted not to name and shame those establishments yet... but give them a chance to improve before we revisit their scores in the future.

In Kent more than 2,500 inspections have been carried out - with 60 per cent receiving top marks. But many came up short.

Issues identified during these spot checks range from poorly cleaned surfaces and equipment, cross contamination of raw meats and fresh food causing a risk of E-coli poisoning, food stored in carrier and bin bags, food stored at the wrong temperatures and poorly-trained staff.

Sheila Davison is the head of health, parking and community safety at Ashford Borough Council. She said that the scoring system had meant people looking for good food could make a better informed choice.

She said: "When dining out, you usually pick a place where you like the food and you know you'll have a good time. It makes sense to look before you book and check out the food hygiene rating as well. The fact the number premises scoring a five continues to increase is extremely good news."

"The ratings recognise the work put in by the better performing establishments and have encouraged under-performing businesses to improve their processes and receive a higher star rating at their next inspection."

Out of all of Kent's districts, Ashford was mid-table, with an average rating of 4.3, or 'good' to 'very good'. That's the same average as Kent as a whole.

The best performing districts for food hygiene were Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone and Gravesham, which had an average rating of 4.6. In Tunbridge Wells, just two per cent of the 234 food places inspected were found to be below

Continues on page 16



THE FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY'S RATINGS

A DECADE ago several councils started to introduce their own food hygiene rating schemes.

Within a few years several other authorities had followed suit, prompting the FSA to introduce a standard test in 2010 so that places across the country could be compared with each other.

The aim is to help people choose where to eat out, or shop for food, by providing information about food hygiene standards at restaurants, pubs, cafes, takea-

ways, hotels supermarkets and other shops selling food directly to consumers.

According to the FSA, businesses that score zero tend to have a history of serious problems and are likely to be performing poorly in the three areas food safety officers inspect. These areas are how hygienically food is prepared, cooked, re-heated, cooled and stored; the cleanliness, layout, lighting and ventilation of the building; and the systems in place

to make sure food is safe for consumption.

What the results mean...
Each rating means the following:

- 5 = very good
- 4 = good
- 3 = generally satisfactory
- 2 = improvement necessary
- 1 = major improvement necessary
- 0 = urgent improvement necessary

RESULTS: BREAKDOWN ACROSS KENT

KENT 0- 1% 1- 4% 2- 4% 3- 10% 4- 21% 5- 60% Total - 2,875 (Average rating 4.3)	Canterbury 0- 0% 1- 2% 2- 2% 3- 16% 4- 25% 5- 54% Total - 225 (Average rating 4.3)	Dover 0- 0% 1- 3% 2- 1% 3- 11% 4- 25% 5- 60% Total - 365 (Average rating 4.4)	Maidstone 0- 0% 1- 2% 2- 3% 3- 5% 4- 10% 5- 80% Total - 240 (Average rating 4.6)	Sevenoaks 0- 1% 1- 4% 2- 3% 3- 20% 4- 24% 5- 47% Total - 181 (Average rating 4)	Swale 0- 0% 1- 5% 2- 1% 3- 8% 4- 23% 5- 62% Total - 214 (Average rating 4.3)	Tonbridge and Malling 0- 0% 1- 2% 2- 7% 3- 12% 4- 24% 5- 54% Total - 178 (Average rating 4.2)
Ashford 0- 2% 1- 2% 2- 5% 3- 9% 4- 15% 5- 67% Total - 178 (Average rating 4.3)	Dartford 0- 1% 1- 1% 2- 4% 3- 7% 4- 23% 5- 64% Total - 176 (Average rating 4.4)	Gravesham 0- 1% 1- 4% 2- 0% 3- 5% 4- 13% 5- 77% Total - 109 (Average rating 4.6)	Medway 0- 1% 1- 5% 2- 5% 3- 7% 4- 21% 5- 61% Total - 504 (Average rating 4.3)	Shepway 0- 1% 1- 2% 2- 6% 3- 17% 4- 14% 5- 60% Total - 303 (Average rating 4.2)	Thanet 0- 0% 1- 6% 2- 4% 3- 2% 4- 17% 5- 71% Total - 188 (Average rating 4.4)	Tunbridge Wells 0- 0% 1- 2% 2- 0% 3- 4% 4- 16% 5- 77% Total - 234 (Average rating 4.6)

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Continued from Page 14

standard, meanwhile in Maidstone 80 per cent of those checked received full marks.

Not all, however, believe the scheme is foolproof.

Family butchers JC Rook and Sons saw top market in the majority of its stores – but a poor one for its Maidstone store.

Andrew Rook told KoS: “The problem with the scheme can be that each inspector interprets things in a different way. We’ve found some authorities inspect shops in different ways, and there is no universal scoring system. That means that some stores, which we feel compare very similarly have received worse scores than others.

“We’ve just taken on our own environmental health officer who is working to make sure all parts of the business are at the same, high standards. The reason for the poor score in Maidstone is being worked on by the officer, and we’ve got a plan in place which should see the next inspection, hopefully in around a month’s time, give it a much, much better score.

“We always want to stay ahead of the game and want to make sure things are as good as they can possibly be in our shops. That’s what has kept us in business for over 50 years, and we hope to still be going in 50 more.”

The lowest average rating of four out of five was recorded in Sevenoaks. However, Medway had the highest percentage of below par eateries with 11 per cent of the 504 outlets scoring two or fewer, followed by Thanet with 10 per cent.

Despite the low score, Medway Council says the scheme has improved things in the area, raising standards for businesses working with food.



SCORES: Supporters say the FSA's system is pushing up the levels of hygiene in all manner of food premises

A spokesman told KoS: “We have been using this system in Medway since February 2013, having carried out a six month trial prior to that, and have found it to be a valuable tool in driving up standards. It also allows people to make an educated decision about where to eat out in Medway.

“As of June this year, the number of food premises rated by the scheme in Medway reached 1,255 and 86 per cent of those have been rated ‘good’ or ‘very good’.”

That is a view echoed by Julie Oates, who works as the environmental protection manager at Canterbury City Council.

She told KoS the scheme was working, but that more needed to be done to ensure businesses continued to improve.

Mrs Oates said: “Canterbury council took part in a FSA scheme which examined how many businesses displayed their sticker ratings prominently in their business windows. We

found that, perhaps unsurprisingly, lower rated businesses were much less likely to display the sticker, while higher rated businesses tended to show theirs off with pride.

“Even after making personal visits to businesses, and explaining the benefits of the scheme, those which had lower ratings tended to avoid placing their stickers.”

One of those businesses which shows their sticker with pride is the Ambrette, with locations in Canter-

bury, Margate and Rye. The business is run by Dev Biswal, who told KoS the scheme is nothing for businesses to fear.

He said: “I personally like the scores on the doors scheme, as I believe that it’s a good thing to get businesses and local authorities working together in partnership.

“When we first started with the scheme, we did get a few low scores due to structural issues in the restaurant. We worked with the council, and working alongside them we managed to improve and gain top marks.

“A lot of businesses get scared when the inspectors arrive, but I personally think they’re your best friend as a business owner. They aren’t there to punish you, like some people think. They are there to help, and ensure that your business is serving the best quality, safe food so that you can stay in business.”

Mrs Oates agrees, telling KoS that Canterbury City Council is working to help businesses which have received low scores.

She said: “We’ve got around 1,600 food premises in the district, and of that number only 22 have failed to be broadly compliant with low scores. That is a tiny proportion of all of the businesses serving food across the area, and certainly shows that the scheme has improved food hygiene.

“Where we do have scores which are lower than three – which is considered compliant – we’ll visit the business concerned and help them achieve higher levels. We’ve worked in conjunction with the FSA on projects to help support businesses and get their scores up, and have seen results which is brilliant news for the consumer, and the business.”



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VARIETY: The Kent County Show allows the county's businesses the chance to showcase their wares and celebrate Kent's agricultural backbone. All pictures: ELI HOPKINS

Record crowds predicted as big numbers surge to county show

Some 80,000 are expected to attend Kent County Show this weekend. **Jamie Weir** reports on day one

IT'S normally the weather that all eyes are on during the Kent County Show weekend, but this year most people began watching the traffic, as cars flooded through the gates of the Detling showground while Operation Stack remained in place on the M20.

Despite the show beginning with traffic trouble, the weather - unlike in previous years - was sunshine and blue skies, with the weather forecast to be good throughout the weekend event, despite some possible Sunday showers.

The show remains a highlight in the county's calendar, with a total of 80,000 people expected by organisers through the weekend.

It got off to a record breaking start on Friday, with Kent County Agricultural Society - which organises the

show - director, Charles Tassell telling KoS the show was better than ever.

The Maidstone based farmer said: "We've worked really hard to improve everything this year, with better entertainment for the public, and a lot of new educational initiatives. We have donkey rides, which is great and a real draw for families, and we've got an amazing new tour of the cattle marquee. They're guided, which means that members of the public are able to find out about all of the pedigrees, and the different types of cattle and what they're used for. It's a great feature, as it helps give the public a better understanding of the rural sector in the county."

That, according to Tish Neaves is the reason the show remains an important part of the county calendar. She is a spokesman for farming cam-



COOL: The Woodland Area provided respite from the heat of the Sun

paign group, Why Farming Matters in Kent.

She said: "At our organisation we

work hard to explain to people what agriculture is, and help re-connect them with where their food comes

from. The public are very interested in where their food comes from, and want to know more, and the county show is an amazing forum to really help educate everyone. Where else would we get the opportunity to go and speak to this many people, and communicate the importance of farming across the county."

The importance of the rural sector is growing in Kent too, with more and more money being ploughed into the wider economy from farming, and other countryside businesses. That's something which Produced in Kent seeks to continue as the county's own food lobby group. Its director is Ed Martin. He told KoS that this year's show was the biggest ever for the group.

Continues on page 20

Kent County Show...Kent County Show... Kent County Show...Kent County Show...

COUNTY SHOW GETS INNOVATIVE

THE show has spent time and money innovating this year to help bring the show to as many people as possible.

An online ticketing system has been introduced, while other changes have flooded in.

Chairman of the show, Kevin Atwood, said: "It's great that we're bringing the county show into the 21st century."

"We've been moving towards online ticket purchases over the last few years, and it's now really

paying off for us.

"On Thursday last week, we sold over 3,000 tickets alone. That's more than ever before in that way."

"We are trying to put in place systems which make it as easy as possible for people to visit the show. We want them to be able to look outside, see the sun shining and be able to just jump on the computer and book in to visit the show without any fuss."

It isn't the only innovation the show has managed recently

though. Following poor weather in 2013, the show has invested heavily in making sure people can get in - and crucially out - of its car parks.

Mr Atwood said: "Although this year we have beautiful weather, there will be other years when resilience is key. We've invested time and money to make sure if rain comes, we'll be prepared. For this show we had temporary roads we could lay on standby until the last minute, just in case."



Continues from page 19

He said: "We have 41 different members at the show, which is a clear sign of how strong our sector is, and it is continuing to show real growth. We have almost 300 members now, with a diverse range of goods being produced across the county, and with greater interest from the public in buying local goods."

"Kent should be really proud it has

such a vibrant, healthy and sustainable rural sector."

According to Mr Martin, that also leads to a wider positive impact in the county's economy.

He said: "Our producers tend to be committed to buying their raw ingredients locally too, which means that the whole county ends up benefiting from the many producers in Kent. That's great news for everyone, and a real success story."

DELIGHT: From livestock to arts and crafts, there is something for everyone at this weekend's show

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PAYING HOMAGE TO DETLING'S AVIATION HERITAGE

THE roar of the Spitfire will be bringing a buzz to crowds at the Kent County Show throughout the weekend.

The plane - named the 'Spirit of Kent' wows crowds at 12.30pm every day of the show.

It's something which show chairman, Kevin Atwood, was particularly excited about.

He told KoS: "Our showground was part of the old Detling aerodrome.

"That history takes us back through the Second World War, and to a time of the Battle of Britain and fighter aces.

"It's a real highlight to have the Spitfire flying over the show, as it is such an iconic silhouette.

"Of course, this year it is made

even more special because of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and the part the Spitfire played during it."

Another sight which wowed crowds on Friday were British top guns the Red Arrows.

They blasted over the county showground at lightning speed, leaving their trademark smoke trails and some very excited faces in their wake.

The team had choreographed a display - lasting around 20 minutes - for the crowds which had gathered. It involved the team's close formation flying and synchronised formation aerobatics.

Mr Atwood told KoS it was great to have the stunt team at the show,

even though they were just there for a day.

He said: "Obviously the Red Arrows are also iconic, albeit in a very different way to the Spitfire. They are amazing professionals, who, since 1965 have been performing their displays - over 4,460 at the end of 2014.

"It's a brilliant draw for people, and amazing to get them to give us one of their incredible displays of skill."

Mr Atwood seems committed to the Spitfire returning for many more years, telling KoS he's happy to have it in the future.

He said: "The planes reflect Detling's heritage, with its aerodrome, so it means a lot to the show to have them here."

HOT: Huge crowds flocked to Detling when gates first opened on Friday and were treated to hot sunshine

One group which tends to benefit more from that success than most is Hadlow College which teaches the rural sector employees of the future.

Spokesman for the college, Pat Crawford, told us the show is a great place to let members of the public know about all the different opportunities, and career paths open in the rural sector.

She said: "It's a great place for Hadlow College to come, and we always participate to the full. As a land-based college, the rural sector is central to what we do. This year we're very excited to be exhibiting one of our herds of cows.

"The herd manager has worked immensely hard to get the cattle into top condition, and it's great that he'll be

able to show them to the public.

"This year, for the first time ever, we'll also have West Kent College and Ashford College exhibiting as part of the wider Hadlow Group. That's great news, as both have worked incredibly hard to become successes since they were taken over."

The Kent County Show concludes today (Sunday).



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One-in-six admit they illegally dump their unwanted waste

Molly Kersey discovers new survey shows many people do not know they are breaking the law...

NEW research has shown that one-in-six people in the South East admit to illegally dumping their unwanted waste.

The survey, which was carried out in response to an increase in fines for fly-tipping, showed that some 30 per cent of those who do it don't actually realise they are breaking the law.

The maximum fine for fly-tipping now stands at £95,000.

Hilary Newport, director of the Kent branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, said the number of people fly-tipping was 'shocking'.

"I am astonished at the lengths people will go to to get rid of waste," she told KoS.

Items that are commonly fly-tipped include white goods, such as fridges, garden waste and household waste – which can contain items such as food scraps, bottles, cans and packaging.

As well as being something of an eyesore, this also carries a risk of attracting pests, like rats.

Sam Devereux, office manager at JP Pest Control, which covers Gravesend, said that piles of rubbish containing food scraps provided rats all

they needed in order to thrive.

"The three key things rats are always looking for are food, shelter and warmth, and piles of rubbish provide those things. They can use those for nesting materials and they can be a constant source of food," he told KoS.

"Rodents are actually consistent all year round. Seasonal pests we get are things such as bees, hornets and wasps (see box)."

Chris Harvey, lecturer in biology at Canterbury Christ Church University, added: "Rats are omnivorous, they will eat almost anything. They are particularly attracted to rotting meat and things like that, because they can smell it from quite a way away.

"If there is a site close to your house or apartments where people do regularly fly-tip and the rubbish contains food waste then that is a concern."

Mr Devereux added: "Take away shops leaving rubbish out on high streets is a problem. It's not very neighbourly and it's not a nice thing to do. But in urban areas you are more likely to be caught by a passer-by. Most people tend to fly-tip in rural, outer areas."

Wild rats can transmit a number of

BEWARE... WASPS

WHILE numbers of pests such as wild rats can remain consistent, this is expected to be a 'bumper year' for wasps, with cold winter temperatures and a particularly warm spring meaning that the yellow and black insects with the painful sting are flourishing.

In a typical summer, wasps will not start to appear in huge numbers or become a big issue until August or September, and start building their nests in spring.

Wasps prefer to build their nests in dry, warm places such as sheds and attics, collecting pieces of paper which they will regurgitate

to help construct their homes.

So with wasps and their nest size expected to increase, what can people do if they discover they have one close to home?

Pest controllers can be called to get rid of nests, a process which will usually involve pumping powdered insecticides into the entrance.

Rob Simpson, leader of independent pest controllers register Basis Prompt, said homeowners should never try to tackle them on their own.

"Treating a wasps nest can be very dangerous as they feel

threatened and are likely to become aggressive if their nest is tampered with," he said.

"A mature nest can contain thousands of wasps, so it's really not worth the risk.

"You don't need to remove a nest, but you do need to have it treated as early as possible and it's definitely a job that should be left to experts."

Preventing wasps from getting into spaces where they can build a nest can help too – for example by keeping shed doors closed so that they are unable to get in and make a nest.

diseases – such as a fungal infection called ringworm that causes a rash on the skin – posing a potential danger to humans and other animals.

"They have the potential to carry Weils disease, it is a bacterial infection that can be quite serious, but that's not carried by a huge number of rats," said Dr Harvey.

So what should people do if they encounter rats in their area?

"I always recommend using a professional company where possible," said Mr Devereux.

"I always say DIY pest control can end up costing more in the long run."

The research revealed the top five reasons people gave for fly-tipping,

with 38 per cent saying it was because 'there is nowhere else to take the rubbish' and 30 per cent saying that they were unaware it was illegal – the two reasons that topped the list.

While 28 per cent said it was the easiest option available, 20 per cent said the cost of disposing of it properly



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WASTE: The maximum fine for fly-tipping now stands at £95,000 but it does not deter those intent on not taking their waste to the proper places

was too high and 16 per cent said they didn't realise they were fly-tipping at the time.

However, Ms Newport said this is still unacceptable.

"There is no way to condone behaviour like that, even if you can't transport the waste to your local authority site, as a householder you will

be able to get it collected," she said.

"If you are going to go to the effort of taking something into the woods, you can take it to the dump. I think it's an awful attitude.

"People assume that just because it's not their problem anymore it somehow magically vanishes, but it's so unsafe. It's one of the most

selfish things you could do."

The research did show that 81 per cent of people would be deterred from fly-tipping with hefty fines.

However, Ms Newport still thinks more needs to be done.

"Fines are one thing, but getting into the mindset of people who do this is probably more important because if

they are not caught then the size of the fine is irrelevant. It's about people understanding and valuing the countryside and realising there are consequences.

"Please do the right thing – get rid of your waste properly, take responsibility for it."

Tom Obbard, director at Furniture



DANGER: Piles of rubbish could attract wild rats

Choice, the firm behind the research, says his company has created an online recycling tool – telling people the best way to get rid of their rubbish.

"Informing the public on the safest ways to dispose of unwanted items is the most effective way of combatting the growing problem of illegal fly tipping, which is why we created the recycling tool.

"Local authorities provide excellent recycling facilities so the online tool is designed to highlight this and, in turn, reduce the number of fly-tipping cases," he said.

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COLOURFUL: Penshurst Place was transformed into a mass of bright colours last weekend as thousands took part in the Run or Dye event which saw competitors covered from head to foot



Running to put the colour back into Penshurst

Thousands took part in homage to Hindu festival within the grounds of historic county house

MORE than 3,000 runners painted the grounds one of the county's most picturesque historic homes red... yellow, green and blue last weekend in an explosion of colour.

They were taking part in the Run or Dye event at Penshurst Place, the medieval house near Tonbridge which dates back to the 14th century.

The event sees runners compete over a 5km course either running, walking or dancing. And all the while being covered in eco-friendly, plant-based cornstarch dye.

Inspired by the ancient Hindu festival of Holi, also known as the 'Festival of Colours', Run or Dye attracted runners, walkers and all speeds in-between.

Participants were encouraged to run dressed in white or in their favourite and most extravagant costumes.

Ben Thomas, general manager of Penshurst Place Estate, said "Run or Dye brought a wonderful kaleidoscope of colour to our parkland and woods. It was great to see so many locals of every age and ability taking part."

Help for Heroes is the event's official national charity partner with the crowds cheering on the wounded servicemen, women and veterans who ran alongside

members of the public taking part.

Volunteers from local charity partner, St Lawrence CE Primary School and neighbouring schools covered the runners from head to toe with dye throughout the course.

Among those taking part was former Tunbridge Wells schoolboy Soloman Akhtar (pictured top left) – a popular finalist in the BBC's The Apprentice TV show. He said: "I loved the event and will be back for more."

Also taking part, and celebrating their tenth wedding anniversary, were John and Kerry Jones from Edenbridge.

They took to the course in their original wedding outfits and were joined by their three children aged 11, nine and five.

Run or Dye events take place across the UK and Europe.

The event moved to Bournemouth this weekend, before it heads To Scotland, France and Ireland.

It returns to Kent in October, when it will be staged at another west Kent popular tourist site. On October 3, Hever Castle, childhood home of Anne Boleyn will host the event.

■ See www.runordye.co.uk for details on how to take part and other dates on its tour of the UK and Europe.



Community comes together for Fusion

Gravesend's Fusion Festival proved a hit with fans as the cross-community event attracted its biggest ever crowd

By Sarah Linney

sarah.linney@archant.co.uk

DANCERS, musicians and stilt-walkers in brightly-coloured costumes wowed a crowd of thousands at the Gravesend Fusion Festival on Saturday.

Around 2,500 people of all ages headed to the Riverside Leisure Area to enjoy performances, arts workshops, food from around the world and family-friendly fun.

Organised by Cohesion Plus and the Kent Equality Cohesion Council and supported by Gravesend Borough Council, the festival aims to encourage positive relations between the borough's different cultures.

Performers included African vocal ensemble Uzambezi, Slovakian band Gejza, local band What, the Four by Four Bhangra Group, Bloco Fogo Samba, bhangra musician Jassi Sidhu and Sam Smith tribute Joe Scripps.

Children from the borough performed a drama with the help of the 2B Scene Theatre Company and the Bollywood Brass Band staged a performance called Samba Bhangra Beats.

There were also arts activities provided by LV21 Arts and stiltwalkers dressed as Bollywood stars.

This is only the third year the festival has been held, and it is growing fast, attracting around 1,000 more people this year than last.

Gurvinder Sandher, Cohesion Plus's artistic director, said he was delighted with the festival's success.

"A lot of hard work and months of preparation go into organising an event like this – I started planning it in December – so it was very pleasing to see so many people," he said.

"We were very lucky with the weather, but we exceeded expectations. The audiences were up and dancing. I was especially pleased with the response that we had for Samba Bhangra Beats, which proved very popular.

"All the work that we do, from the Christmas events to the St George's Day celebrations, is about bringing communities together and there's something at the festival for everyone.

"I have a lot more ideas for next year now!"



FUSION: The fun event was great success

kentnews.co.uk kent-life.co.uk



COLOURFUL: The festival brought together many different groups

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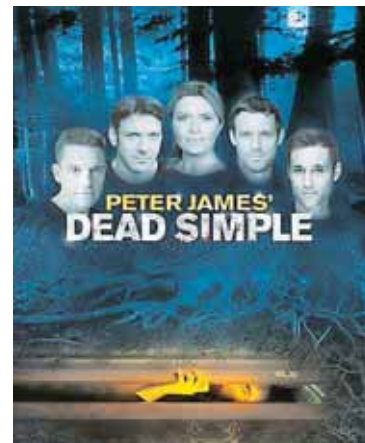
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STARS: Play is spearheaded by a strong cast – many of whom will be familiar from TV roles

Claustrophobic thriller shines from the dark

We cast a critical eye over Peter James' *Dead Simple* play after its run at the Marlowe Theatre

REVIEW by Chris Britcher

Dead Simple at the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

FIVE minutes into *Dead Simple* and I fear the worst.

The two characters striding purposefully on stage – a couple of property investors with money and smarm oozing out of every pore – seem so remarkably unlikeable I fear that this performance could leave me very cold.

Half an hour later and I may not be literally perched on the edge of my seat and dropping Malteser crumbs down the neck of the theatre-goer who has the misfortune to sit in front of me, but I am fully engaged.

But then we are talking here about a stage production adapted from a book written by Peter James, a man with a penchant for tapping into the part of the brain which sends a shiver down the spine.

And so the opening exchanges part like the Red Sea before Moses to lead the audience into a well-crafted tale of crime and intrigue.

Without wishing to spoil it for those heading to the Marlowe this week to enjoy it, suffice to say a stag party prank spirals out of control in the most shocking fashion leaving the soon-to-be bride-groom, Michael Harrison (portrayed by Jamie Lomas) in something of a tight spot – namely buried in the ground in remote woodland nailed down in a coffin.

While he struggles to escape – his confinement superbly highlighted to the audience by a clever split level stage which allows three separate sets to be alternated between in the twinkling of an eye – we watch his bride-to-be, Ashley Harper (Holby City's Tina Hobley) struggle with his disappearance and an intriguing storyline, which unfolds around the police investigation.

With a seam of dark humour being regularly mined to keep proceedings from slipping too much into a claustrophobic fog, and strong performances, it is an entertaining experience.

“ It may not be perfect, but *Dead Simple* is what all good theatre should be; engrossing, enjoyable and with enough jumps and starts to keep you on the edge of your seat ”

Dead Simple,

is reaching the end of a UK tour

However, maybe it is just courtesy of a rich diet of *Midsummer Murders*, *Veras* and any number of other murder-mystery dramas, but you don't necessarily need to be Hercule Poirot to work out how it all pans out during the second half.

Certainly, the first has some genuine moments of gasps from the audience, the second more a case of ‘ah, we thought so’ revelations. Not necessarily a bad thing, as it remains compelling throughout, but it just leads to a rather lack lustre conclusion.

Star performers are Hobley, who is perfectly cast in the role as the strong partner of the missing man, and Josh Brown as Davey Wheeler – a youngster from the Playstation generation who spends his life desperate to be playing a key role in the American cop dramas he watches relentlessly.

His character is, at times, intensely infuriating, but his portrayal is excellent.

Special praise must go too to Michael McKell as Bradley Cunningham who somehow manages to steal the stage most times he is on it.

It may not be perfect, but *Dead Simple* is what all good theatre should be – engrossing, enjoyable and with enough jumps and starts the aforementioned Maltesers spend plenty of time bouncing out of the bag and on to the floor.

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Will change to Right to Buy solve housing issue or make it worse?



CONCERNS: Critics, including Angelo Sommariva (inset) from Moat housing association, claim the change could lead to a fall in the stock of social housing just when more houses need building

The Tories say the extension of Right to Buy to housing association tenants will help the housing crisis but critics claim it will reduce social housing and drive young people out of our rural areas...

By Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

CONTROVERSIAL at the time, the Right to Buy policy introduced by Margaret Thatcher's Government in 1980 has recently been extended – and now includes the tenants of housing associations.

The Conservative Government, in introducing the extension of the scheme, says it will help solve the housing crisis, assisting those 'strivers' to get on the property ladder.

However those opposed to the policy say that instead of freeing up housing, it could end up damaging the property market.

Angelo Sommariva works as the public affairs and policy expert at Moat – a leading housing association which works across Kent.

He told KoS that taken alone, the policy didn't appear too damaging.

He said: "We don't think this is a good idea. One big worry for us is how this new policy will interact and work alongside other new Government policies.

"Very little of the funding we receive for our bricks and mortar building projects is funded directly by Government these days. Instead, we get the funding from housing benefits. Welfare cuts we have seen recently mean that we are now tending to look for private partners to develop with, which, in itself isn't a bad thing.

"However they normally want the lowest risk developments, which are generally in areas that people aspire to live in. There are certain areas in Kent, like parts of Margate, which rank fairly poorly on social deprivation indicators. We aren't

likely to have any incentive to develop in these areas under the new scheme, despite them being exactly the type of places where Government should be encouraging new development."

It isn't just housing associations – at risk of being forced to sell off chunks of their stock – which feel that the new policy could be bad.

Henry Gregg, assistant director at the National Housing Federation, a lobby group for the housing sector, says the Government shouldn't be allowed to meddle in private businesses.

Mr Gregg said: "This policy is not a genuine solution to our housing crisis. An extension to the Right to Buy would mean that housing associations are working to keep pace with replacements rather than building homes for the millions stuck on waiting lists. At a time when we need to be increasing the overall amount of social housing, it is like trying to fill a bathtub with the plug taken out.

"What's more, forcing housing associations to sell off their properties under the Right to Buy sets an extremely dangerous precedent of government interference in independent businesses.

"We fully support the aspiration of home ownership, but this policy does nothing for the 11 million private renters and three million adult children living at home with their parents. If there is £22.5 billion of public money available for housing, we should use it to build homes the next generation needs, not just gift it to the lucky few already housed in housing association homes."

The stock, says Government, will be replenished through a building programme which

“ At a time when we need to be increasing the overall amount of social housing, it is like trying to fill a bathtub with the plug taken ”

Henry Gregg, assistant director
National Housing Federation

would see every house sold, used to fund a new home.

Housing minister Brandon Lewis said: "We want to help anyone who works hard and aspires to own their own home to turn their dream into a reality. The Right to Buy supports those dreams – it's why we want to give housing association tenants the same home ownership opportunities as council tenants.

"I know these changes will be challenging for housing associations but I also know they care deeply about their tenants. That's why I'm calling on them to support our vision and become the champions of aspiration.

"Only by working together can we make a real difference to the lives of hard-working people and keep the country building."

Mr Sommariva says that at this stage, too little information has been put out by Government to actually start analysing the full implications of the policy.

He told KoS: "As with most policy the devil is in the detail. Until we know what the full discount would be, what qualifying periods tenants would need and other aspects, it's impossible to

model the full impact of the policy."

Despite that difficulty, rural campaigners have been quick to round on the new policy, stating it's likely to be extremely damaging to countryside communities in the county.

Director at countryside campaign group, CPRE Kent, Hilary Newport told KoS: "We are very concerned about the potential loss of affordable rented homes if more are sold off under Right to Buy. The supply of affordable housing in Kent, which is 85 per cent rural, is already very low, particularly in villages and country areas. Increased provision of affordable housing is essential to the sustainability and vitality of the countryside.

"Rural communities already face the challenges of higher average house prices and lower average wages than urban areas. This is driving people to move from the rural areas they grew up in to seek housing elsewhere. Extending the Right to Buy is likely to exacerbate this problem, with an increased number of invaluable rural affordable homes lost to the open market forever."

That view is echoed by Professor Mark Shucksmith OBE, who is the director of the Newcastle University Institute for Social Renewal.

He said: "We are already seeing those on low and medium incomes, and especially young people, priced out of small towns and villages across the UK. With housing association properties sold off, and unlikely to be replaced in any substantial quantities, the wealth di-

vide in rural communities will deepen even further."

Professor Shucksmith argues that the forced sale of housing association properties will cause wider impacts, which stretch further than simple social and demographic effects.

He says the change could cause problems for the rural economy too.

He said: "With rural areas becoming increasingly socially exclusive, local businesses – from farms and shops to accountants and software developers – will find it even harder to attract the young, skilled, ambitious people they need.

"We urgently need more affordable homes built, not the disposal of the few that remain in rural areas. Government should reconsider the Right to Buy extension, and instead implement recommendations made by the Rural Housing Policy Review group to provide more affordable rural housing.

"This would not only provide much-needed housing supply,



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KEEPING EYE ON COUNTRY

A NEW free app will let people living in the rural community report and share information on crime, or suspicious behaviour, quickly and easily.

The app – called Country Eye – was commissioned by the Crime Rural Advisory Group (CRAG) after concerns were raised about the level of crime in rural areas.

Chairman of CRAG Mike Bax said: "Data suggests that the cost of rural crime in Kent stands at £1.8 million, if you include the additional hidden costs to repair property, replace locks and the time taken out of a working day to address these issues, the cost is considerably higher."

"CRAG was formed to help combat rural crime and to work with farmers, businesses and residents to find solutions."

The new app makes use of modern technology to help rural dwellers report intelligence

quickly. It is then broadcast out to other local app users.

Peter Rolington, chairman of Kent Crimestoppers and member of CRAG, said: "Country Eye will be an invaluable tool to inform people living and working in the countryside about incidents that are occurring in their area."

"Technology has advanced greatly in recent years and has enabled us to develop a digital version of the highly successful Neighbourhood Watch scheme."

"We will be able to broadcast information directly to users about potential incidents as they happen."

"The Country Eye app will allow a greater audience to receive information, particularly those living in the most remote parts of the county."

The new app will launch on July 10 and can be downloaded from the Apple App and Google Play stores.

INFORMATION: "All of us can assist police by providing valuable information and intelligence to police officers," says the county's Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes

Neighbourhood Watch set to play bigger role in fight against crime

Police commissioner calls for everyone to be good neighbours and help fight crime, writes **Jamie Weir**

OVER the past three decades, twitching curtains, wagging tongues and busy bodies have become the stereotype of Neighbourhood Watch schemes up and down the land.

But in an era of policing cuts and Government austerity, Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner, Ann Barnes, is urging everyone to play their part... and be a good neighbour.

Cuts mean less resources and some 500 staff have been lost from Kent's police force in the past three years.

This means the importance of the Neighbourhood Watch, with its network of volunteers is growing, with a total of 4,500 schemes across the county helping provide cover for 350,000 households – more than half of Kent's homes.

Mrs Barnes said: "The concept of people being good neighbours is not new. For centuries we've always looked after each other. It's what good human beings do."

"I encourage everyone to be good neighbours, and participate in Neighbourhood Watch schemes where they have been set up. All of us can assist police by providing valuable information and intelligence to police officers. Neighbourhood Watch volunteers are a conduit which enables local officers to do a better job, but of course they cannot replace officers."

"As we all know Kent police has had to endure £50 million worth of cuts, losing a fifth of its workforce in the process and yet demand has not gone down. Because cuts have consequences there are things the force is

inevitably no longer able to do.

"A good example of this is the force no longer being able to look after property which the public has found. I would like to think that all of us, as good neighbours, would still make efforts to reunite a lost purse with its owner if we found one."

Neighbourhood Watch schemes consist of groups of volunteers in an area who report any crime, or suspicious activity to a central co-ordinator. They then feedback that information to the police, giving a valuable insight into any potential criminal activity in the area.

Ashford MP, and former policing and justice minister, Damian Green agrees, telling KoS that the scheme is key in providing information.

He said: "I'm a big supporter and I know the police are as well. Keeping the streets safe, and communities secure is about more than just the police. It is about having as many people out there as possible, feeding intelligence to the police."

Mr Green added: "However many police we have, there will never be one on every corner. Neighbourhood Watch can help the bobby on the beat though, giving them information which they wouldn't have had access to otherwise."

"As communication gets better, with social media feeding in, Neighbourhood Watch groups can help provide that information faster, making policing easier and helping the force fight crime."

Mrs Barnes echoed this sentiment, saying that even though the schemes had done well, there were limits to



COMMISSIONER: Ann Barnes

what they could achieve.

She said: "Neighbourhood Watch groups put a formal structure around the existing concept of being a good neighbour. I'm extremely proud of the way in which Kent Police and Neighbourhood Watch groups work so closely together."

"I remain committed to encouraging them financially where I can. They should be proud of themselves and we're grateful to them for being so proactive. They encourage everyone to take responsibility for safety in their community, and to look out for one another."

"There are limits to what they can achieve of course – but what they can do, they do very well."

"Neighbourhood Watch is a very useful system but it does not and cannot replace officers and PCSOs on the street. That is why I have pledged to protect visible community policing even during times of austerity."

It is exactly that type of assistance which is likely to make the schemes

an invaluable tool for police in the future.

Catherine Mulholland, the volunteer Neighbourhood Watch coordinator at Kent Police, hinted that police reliance on the schemes is set to grow in the future.

She told KoS: "Neighbourhood Watch plays a crucial role in serving our communities and in the coming months and years we will rely on their support even more."

"They are the eyes and ears of the police and provide us with information that we can assess and respond to accordingly. We have recently celebrated National Neighbourhood Watch week and more than 100 people attended."

"It was a great opportunity for members to get an update on the current and new initiatives such as the introduction of body worn video cameras for officers and other issues that might affect Neighbourhood Watch."

She added: "To provide a local point of contact for members we have four watch liaison officers employed by Kent Police, who are based at police stations across the county and work with their local volunteers to ensure the watch is effective."

"And I would encourage anyone who is interested in finding out more about joining Neighbourhood Watch to get in touch."

And as an important tool in the fight against crime, it can also affect the price people pay when they come to insuring their home.

Gareth Lane, head of home insurance at Confused.com, told KoS: "In

the past some providers have given discounts when policyholders were active members of a NHW scheme."

"Overtime the number of providers offering discounts based on this question within a quote process has diminished and now insurers look at the wider area and whether that is covered by a NHW scheme."

"If it is, policyholders can expect to see their cost of a policy fall naturally as instances of crime tend to be lower in areas covered by the scheme."

Statistics used by insurers from a 2008 report, found that crime in Neighbourhood Watch areas is reduced by between 16 and 26 per cent.

And it isn't just crime the scheme seeks to help communities with. Although formed to fight against crime, its remit has expanded and groups now give residents advice and information on a wide range of issues.

The Neighbourhood and Home Watch – the national group which provides support to local schemes – has just completed a new five year plan.

The group says it is continuing to adapt in an era of diminishing policing budgets.

Jim Maddan, chairman for the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network, said: "We could never have predicted the exponential rise in the use of new technologies and social media. We have had to adapt and change along the way."

"It is an exciting time and we have grasped the opportunities with both hands and we look forward with enthusiasm and vigour to the years ahead."

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INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night • house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & pumped mixers • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • Live nightly entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet • upgrades available • Return car ferry



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The Fourmost
Maxine Mazumder
as Dusty Springfield



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8 January, 2016 • 3 nights half board-plus, from **£229pp** • Quote: BP1-2-KOS

Too busy to do the New Year in December? Join us for a private party at Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel on the Isle of Wight as we extend the New Year festivities into January and take you on a trip down memory lane back to the 1960s. Our exclusive weekend, designed specially for the over 40s generation, includes a gala New Year's Eve party, complete with Big Ben countdown to midnight and a Best of British sing-a-long with all the old favourites including Land of Hope and Glory and Auld Lang Syne. PLUS there are Free Drinks every night from 6pm-midnight to help the party go with a swing. The entertainment line-up features authentic 60s Bands The Fourmost and Union Gap, plus a tribute to Dusty Springfield with Maxine Mazumder.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - beers - house lager, bitter and cider; branded spirits including Smirnoff, Bacardi, Bells, Gordon's Gin, Courvoisier, Lamb's Navy Rum, Martini & Harvey's Bristol Cream Sherry; wine by the glass; draught soft drinks and cordials • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • 1960s themed live nightly entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet • upgrades to main hotel available • Return car ferry crossing Portsmouth-Fishbourne or Lymington-Yarmouth

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20 November, 2015 • 3 nights half board-plus, **£129pp** • Quote: CC11-KOS

Join us for an over 40s Christmas party weekend to remember as we re-wind the decades and go back to the 60s, 70s and 80s at Pontins Pakefield, by the sea near Lowestoft, Suffolk. Enjoy live music from original 70s band Brotherhood of Man, 60s rockers The Swinging Blue Jeans and the new touring show Whitney - Queen of The Night. Add 3 Free Drinks per person per night and you've got the perfect recipe for a great party weekend.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrade available • Towels & linen



The Merseybeats
The Ivy League

Free Drinks • Entertainment
Over 40s only • £10pp deposit

We Love the 60s Spring Party Weekend

11 March, 2016 • 3 nights half board-plus, **£129pp** • Quote: PS3-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for a Spring Party - for over 40s only - to blow away the winter cobwebs. We've lined up a brilliant entertainment showbill featuring The Ivy League, The Merseybeats and The Pacemakers plus tributes to The Beach Boys and The Beatles. With non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and free drinks every night, this is one party weekend you're sure to love.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full 60s theme entertainment programme • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrade available



The Fourmost
Maxine Mazumder
as Dusty Springfield



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CRIMESCENE: The Securitas depot in Tonbridge which attracted the attention of the world in 2006 after crooks broke in and stole more than £53m in one of the most daring raids of all time

Was 'Goldfinger' brains behind the daring £53m Securitas raid?

Chris Murphy takes a look at allegations made following death of notorious criminal John Palmer

POLICE were this week remaining tight-lipped about sensational claims that criminal mastermind John 'Goldfinger' Palmer – found shot dead at his sprawling mansion last month – was behind the £53 million Securitas raid nine years ago.

The daring raid of the depot in Tonbridge in 2006 was hailed as one of the most audacious crimes ever committed – and the biggest ever in the UK (see box).

Mr Palmer was found dead at his £800,000 Essex home last month. Initially thought to be of natural causes after recent surgery, it later became apparent he had been shot.

A post mortem examination revealed he had been killed by a gunshot wound to his chest. Unconfirmed reports suggest the ammunition used was similar to that used by professional hitmen and designed to cause maximum damage to his internal organs.

The notorious crook earned his James Bond-inspired nickname for his part in the Brinks Matt bullion raid at Heathrow in 1983.

A gang of thugs were expecting a few million in cash and were confronted with £26 million in gold bars. Among those involved in disposing of the gold was Kenneth Noye from West Kingsdown, who would go on to commit the 'road rage' murder on the M25 of Dartford's Stephen Cameron.

Noye was arrested and convicted of his part in the disposal of the gold in 1986. A year earlier, he had escaped a murder charge after stabbing a police

THE CRIME WHICH STUNNED THE WORLD

CLOSE to the railway line which cuts through the centre of Tonbridge, and behind the bustling High Street and superstores, is a rather innocuous looking set of industrial buildings.

But it was one of these, in Vale Road, which would become the scene of one of the most daring crimes ever committed in the UK.

Securitas was responsible for storing and shipping out millions of pounds for use in cash machines and banks.

So when a balaclava-wearing gang, armed and dangerous, burst in during the early hours of February 22, 2006, they found

themselves staring at vast quantities of cash.

They would drive off with £53m. They'd have taken more, but they couldn't fit it in their van.

But while the public leapt on the romance of the crime, it was an horrific experience for many. Not least, the manager of the depot. As he drove from his home in Herne Bay he was pulled over near Detling by crooks masquerading as police. Meanwhile, his wife and eight-year-old son had been kidnapped by the gang.

All three victims were soon reunited and then taken to the cash depot in the back of a van. The

manager was told by members of the gang that if he didn't assist, his family would be harmed.

Some 14 other members of staff were tied up as the crooks ran riot.

Vehicles were found first, including a Transit van parked in an Ashford hotel car park with £1.3m inside.

In January 2008, a court jury delivered guilty verdicts on five people with two cleared. Sentences of up to 20 years were handed out.

In 2010, another leading target for police was jailed for 25 years in Morocco for his part.

To this day, only around £21 million has been recovered.

long been felt in the Home Counties.

He quoted his source as saying arrests following the Securitas raid "led to a massive fallout which has sparked a gang war in Kent and Essex between the associates of the old-school Brits and the foreign boys. It is still going on to this day – and much of the blame has been laid on Palmer".

Nothing has been proved, but police in both Essex and Kent say they are keeping abreast of developments.

A spokesman for Kent Police told KoS this week: "Essex Police is investigating Mr Palmer's death, and if they uncover any information deemed relevant to Kent then it will be passed on."

When asked about the links to the Securitas raid, Essex Police added: "Detectives are following several line of inquiry, but we are not able to comment on specific historical incidents."

"We can't confirm what particular incidents they are looking in to, but clearly there are a large amount of main lines of inquiry."

Since his death, the media has been awash with acres of allegations about Palmer and his criminal activity.

Others suggest he had angered Spanish crooks amid claims he was about to turn police supergrass.

He lived in Tenerife, where he had a yacht moored in the harbour.

Police are also apparently examining similarities between the death of Palmer and that of Great Train Robber Charlie Wilson in 1990 in Marbella.

officer in the grounds of his Kent home while he was under surveillance. He claimed he attacked the officer in self-defence after finding him in his garden.

He was jailed for 14 years for his part in a crime Palmer had originally recruited him to do.

Noye was released in 1994. A year later he killed Stephen Cameron and went on the run before police tracked him down to Spain. He is currently in jail serving a life sentence for the murder.

Palmer is said to have been the 'money' behind the Brinks Mat and other significant raids, for which it is said he took 25 per cent of the haul.

However, he was cleared of melting down the gold bars claiming he didn't realise they were stolen.

But he was jailed eventually for a massive timeshare fraud.

Now, an investigative journalist who has been on Palmer's tail for three decades claims he was part of the brains behind the Securitas raid.

Some even speculate he was behind the recent Hatton Garden raid.

It is said he amassed a fortune worth half a billion pounds helped by financing raids like the one at Securitas.

The reporter, Wensley Clarkson of the Daily Mail, who makes the allegations, says he spoke with a former

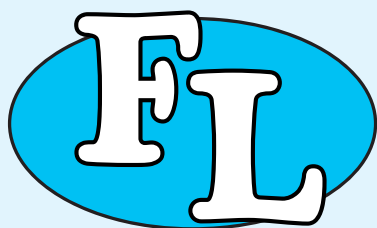
professional burglar who apparently knows many of the Securitas gang.

He claims the Tonbridge job comprised British and Eastern European crooks who fell-out shortly after the raid proved a success.

After the police enjoyed a number of key breakthroughs, many of the gang involved were caught and have subsequently been sentenced.

It is thought that once many were arrested they began to name others involved.

Palmer is alleged to have put up £100,000 to set up the job with the agreement he would pocket a quarter of the proceeds. The fall-out of the Securitas raid has, claims Mr Clarkson,



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REINVENTED: Among the delights on offer is The Burger Bros' Big Daddy Burger

Which burger? A quandary to get your teeth into!

By Jamie Weir

JUICY, flame grilled meat between golden toasted buns. The hamburger has a special place in many people's hearts, and now, the good burghers of Canterbury will get to choose between three new gourmet fast food outlets in the city.

They aren't the only ones though, as quietly, the hamburger has shed its former image of tasteless grey patties, and reinvented itself worldwide for the foodie generation.

After something of street food renaissance, the humble hamburger – named after its city of birth, in Hamburg, rather than because the first ones were made of ham – has grown from convenient fast food, or a simple snack at the football ground, into a delicacy in its own right.

Various establishments – including Chancellor George Osborne's rumoured favourite, Byron – have transformed the meal, with greater focus on high quality, real food.

The proof of the burger's success is the expansion that these gourmet burger restaurants are now seeing: they're migrating from their traditional stomping grounds of London, and moving to areas in Kent as the county's residents demand more of the meaty treats.

Gourmet Burger Kitchen was one of the first of this breed of upper-class, fast food establishments, opening its first branch in Battersea in 2001.

It has now grown to more than 60 restaurant, with the latest addition to its portfolio in Canterbury.

Marketing director at GBK, Katie McDermott told KoS the chain was always eyeing up tasty new sites.

She said: "We have been eager to get the res-

taurant opened in Canterbury after such a positive reception from locals ahead of the summer. With such a diverse group of people living in Canterbury, we are sure we have something to satisfy every burger craving."

Byron also says that Canterbury is a prime location for burger bars, with founder of the chain, Tom Byng telling KoS: "Canterbury is a beautiful, historic city that draws visitors from all around the world.

"We're always on the lookout for interesting locations where people will like what we do and we think we've found just that in Canterbury.

"We're delighted to be joining such a vibrant food scene: we're in great company."

That kind of expansionist ideology isn't espoused by east Kent's native burger company, The Burger Bros, which has restaurants in Broadstairs, Canterbury, Dover and Deal.

Founder, Karl Wozny, told KoS they like to keep their burgers local.

He said: "We're strictly east Kent boys, and we don't want to expand out of the county.

"For us, good burgers are about great, fresh local produce made into bespoke meals. All of our beef comes from within a few miles of our locations, and it is all traceable.

"We use locally sourced food, rather than buying in bulk because it makes a difference."

He added: "People know what a good burger is these days, and they're becoming less willing to compromise with tasteless, bland mass produced burgers.

"I don't use the term 'gourmet burger' as I passionately believe that every burger should be done well.

"That renaissance in good burgers may have started in London, but it was only a matter of time until it filtered down into the provinces, and now, the people of Kent are getting better burger choice than ever before."

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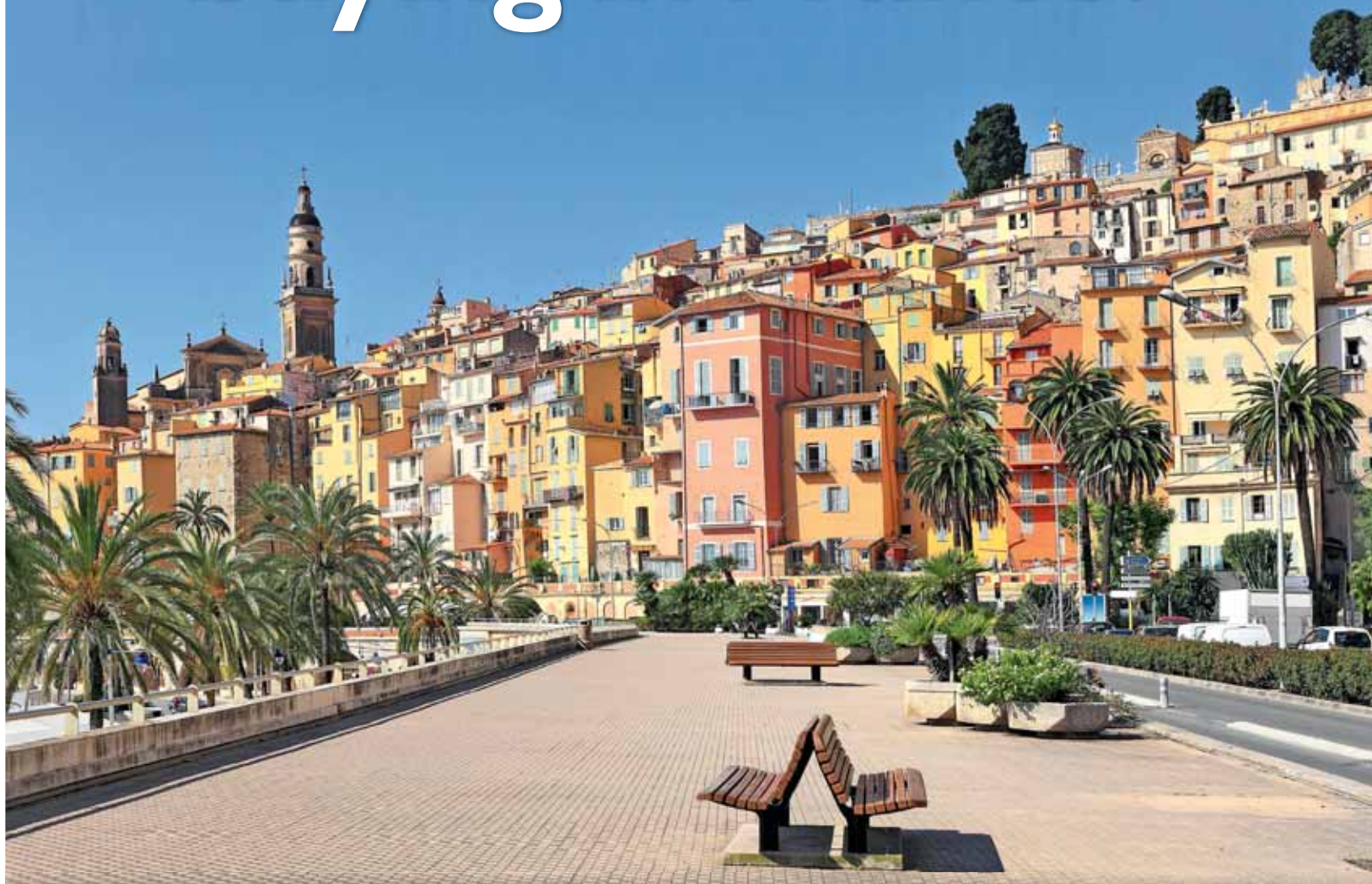
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FRIENDS: Matt Faull from Gravesend (pictured centre) with his Only One Direction bandmates

Hit One Direction tribute act is set to delight the crowds

Molly Kersey spoke to singer Matt Faull about the upcoming performance....

GROWING up in Gravesend, Matt Faull always knew that he wanted to perform.

Now, the singer will be returning to his roots – taking to the stage at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford, with Only One Direction – a tribute act to the smash hit band One Direction.

"It will be great to come back," he told KoS.

"I was in Dartford recently and saw a poster for the show and thought – 'I'm coming home'.

"When I was about 10, I remember seeing a couple of shows at the Orchard and thinking 'I want to do that'," he added.

Only One Direction will be playing in the county as part of their tour of the UK, which will see them performing songs from all four of One Direction's hit albums

such as What Makes You Beautiful, Steal My Girl, Best Song Ever and Story Of My Life.

Mr Faull will be taking on the role of Niall Horan in the show.

"It's really great fun doing the tour," he said.

He explained that while the band had elements of each of the original performers, they were not trying to be just like them.

"At the end of the day we are singers so that is more important for the casting – that we have the voices that can do it," he said.

And he added that the reaction from fans had been very positive, with a meet and greet offered at the end of each of their shows.

"Every time we do a meet and greet I am always blown away by the response from people," he said.

"I think everyone is aware that you're not One Direction, but at the

end of the day they come in and they just love it so much."

And Mr Faull said that he has become close to his bandmates, who take on the roles of Harry Styles, Zayn Malik, Louis Tomlinson and Liam Payne.

"You spend so much time together in the show and on the road so you get really close, which is nice," said Mr Faull.

"If you're going to spend that much time with someone it makes it that much more enjoyable, because you are there with your friends doing what you love.

"The audience can relate to that as well."

One Direction fans were shocked by news earlier this year that Mr Malik would be leaving the band, and that they would be continuing as a four-piece without him.

However, the good news is that

his tribute act did not suffer the same fate, and he has still kept his place in Only One Direction.

"We still have our Zayn," said Mr Faull.

"We do have an option for bookers to have a four-piece or a five-piece, and it's a slightly different show because you're tailoring it to have less of us.

"But the bookings seem to still be for five. The response we get from fans is that they want the band as a five. We are still keeping him and he's very popular.

"He's an amazing singer, he's got a great voice."

Only One Direction will be performing at the Orchard Theatre on July 27 at 4pm.

Tickets are £16.

To book you can call the ticket office on 01322 220000 or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

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HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 4292 Box No: 418117

FEMALE, 59, GSOH, many interests, seeks caring male for fun friendship maybe more, genuine calls only. Text only to Mailbox No: 4819793

GILLY, voluptuous well groomed lady, seeks man to massage and pamper. Tel No: 0906 515 4293 Box No: 412933

GORGEOUS flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435

ANN, young looking 40yrs seeks broadminded man in any age/location for no strings discreet times, games and more. Tel No: 0906 515 4294 Box No: 412369

FEMALE easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0906 515 4295 Box No: 366019

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably older, N/S male with own car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537

FEMALE seeking male for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413809

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383

KATIE, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127

NICE female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874

BLONDE female, 5ft 11ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

ATTRACTIVE lady early 50's, petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, WLTm professional, caring gent, 50-60's for attention and future together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

ALISON 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416517

ALISON 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497

DEBORAH 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416515

ATTRACTIVE black, athletic lady, varied interests, seeks similar white, old fashioned, genuine male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416215

MAY sexy black African female, 38, hardworking, seeks generous friendly male for mutual rewarding friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416211

SUE young at heart, good looking, enjoys life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416171

JACKIE 32, attractive professional, very smart and feminine, long brown hair, seeks smart, confident, older male who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416297

BECKY 23, classy blonde, long blonde hair, blue eyes seeks loving older guy to spoil and pamper her. Discretion assured/guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416233

LINDA 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male for discreet naughty but fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416195

TERESA 39, petite, cuddly and bubbly seeks kind older male to travel, have fun, and take care of, pamper and flirt with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416081

LUCY stunning tall brunette, looking for exciting times, seeks like-minded, adventurous male who is willing to try anything on or maybe even twice! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416079

PETITE blonde, blue eyes, very feminine and sensual, seeks younger male for friendship and discreet fun. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416077

SARAH 29yr old pretty slim single mom of one, interesting, lively, good fun, enjoys nights in/out, music, seeking similar easy going, genuine, honest man/dad to get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415841

ANGIE attractive nurse 39yrs, new to area/advertising, likes dog walking, being sociable, meals in/out, WLTm honest, fun male for possible ltr. looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415827

LISA attractive petite Filipino female, very lonely, wanting to find love, companionship and to be happy, looking for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415549

SUE 65, 5ft 8ins, blonde hair, fashionable, smoker, GSOH, enjoys meals out, travel, animals, WLTm kind, shyish man for friendship, maybe more. Thelnet area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415735

BLONDE female, 47, looking for fun, sensual, experienced, understanding, seeking similar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415675

INTELLIGENT funny guy without a huge ego required for damaged heart. Casey 39, size 10, curves in all the right places, pretty, kind, loving, genuine, romantic and available. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415509

BLACK lady 43, sincere, down to earth, fun loving, likes theatre, cinema, meals out, walks, seeking white gent with GSOH, sincere and down to earth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415477

JENNY voluptuous blonde tanned well-presented female, enjoys being and giving pampering, cooking, cosy nights, looking for some broadminded excitement. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415399

JOYCE 39, attractive GSOH, loves nights out, honest, loyal, fun to be with, looking for mature male for adult companionship, meals out and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415561

NICOLETTE 32 petite professional attractive black female looking for similar hardworking white male who like me loves life and is serious about finding a LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415545

Men Seeking

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JOHN nice looking, brown curly hair, gentle, understanding, seeks tall, slim lady for daytime no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418207

BRIAN happy go lucky, genuine, loving, likes nights in, DVDs, meals out, seeking genuine lady for loving, caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418197

MALE widower, N/S, likes reading, walking, WLTm lady 50-70 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418173

COME dine with me. Attractive black British male 50 yrs, 6ft, medium build, working, GSOH, romantic and genuine WLTm similar female. Text only to Mailbox No: 4763687

PETE 49, slim, 5ft 7in s, smoker, creative, likes art, live bands, outdoors, seeks similar female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416421

PAUL 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077

MALE widower, N/S, seeks buxom lady, 50-70, likes reading, 60's music, pub quizzes and crosswords. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417905

PROFESSIONAL, romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195

MICK 50, seeks attractive female for nice times out, genuine calls only. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417691

PAUL 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, likes music, cinema, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tunbridge Wells. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371985

PAUL GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013

MALE 71, Tidy, OHAC WLTm Lady late 60s early 70s for easy friendship. Likes animals. Text only to Mailbox No: 4757205

YOUNG 60yr old male, knows how to treat a lady, seeking special lady to spoil for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417909

GOOD looking fit male, romantic kind and passionate, with lots of love to give WLTm a mature lady 55 to 65 for LTR. Text only to Mailbox No: 4760779

ROAD worker looking for fun times and hopefully more. Great sense of humour. Laughs a lot. Looking for the same in lady. Text only to Mailbox No: 4753610

MALE 48, looking for fun loving female to enjoy outdoor activities, nights in and meals out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392212

FEMALE pillion passenger sought for motorcycle rides / adventures and anything else good/bad. Any age/status. 59yr old male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416827

PAT blonde blue eyed curvy, cuddly female, attractive, likes swimming, gardening, holidays, my job/home, looking for happiness with quiet content grounded male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415533

MANDY 35, petite attractive slim female with very GSOH, likes to keep fit, meals in/out, WLTm genuine child friendly guy/dad for fun times together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415513

JACKIE very pretty leggy well-mannered/educated 28yr old female, loves nights in/out, sports, WLTm sincere male up to 35yrs for friendship, hopefully ltr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415377

DONNA 36yrs un-modest but very attractive, nice eyes, good figure, GSOH, OHAC, great job, sick of never meeting Mr Right, looking for someone special. Genuine male please. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415187

ALISON 27yr old very bored broadminded female with plenty of free time on her hands looking for some adult fun times. Call me, I won't disappoint. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415177

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719

GARY 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175

49YR old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015

HAPPY go lucky guy 62, GSOH, seeks fun loving lady, 48-65 for coastal walks, lunches and fun days with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417707

BRIAN 71, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, music, walks, seeks female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417697

MICK 50, seeks attractive female for nice times out, genuine calls only. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417691

ROCKABLY guy, seeks rock chick, 25-50 who likes 50's rock music and bands. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 284750

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611

JACK 47, tall, good-looking, average build, GSOH, seeks broadminded female for discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416867

MIKE Canterbury mature male, seeks single mum/lady, 28-42, slim-medium build for loving, caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415275

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611



ANDY 5ft 5ins, retired, 69, solvent, likes most things, meals out, holidays, golf, swimming, GSOH, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417821

67YR old male, slim, 5ft 5ins, many interests, likes holidays, meals out, seeking slim female 55-65 with GSOH to share TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414023

BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for wine/dine and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377397

48YR old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421

KIND, tall, medium build, smart, easy going widower, 71 WLM Lady 60s early 70s, for easy going friendship OHAC. Text only to Mailbox No: 4641218

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015

BARRY divorced, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412717

MALE 46, wishes to meet female of similar age for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417127

PETE 49, slim, 5ft 7in s, smoker, creative, likes art, live bands, outdoors, seeks similar female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416421

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015

LOCAL Sevenoaks man, seeks local lady for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417127

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PETE 49, slim, 5ft 7in s, smoker, creative, likes art, live bands, outdoors, seeks similar female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416421

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Classic movies screened at an open air cinema in Tonbridge

by Molly Kersey
molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

AN open air cinema will be making its way to Tonbridge to screen two 'timeless' movies' later this month. The eighties classics will be shown over the weekend of July 24 and 25.

Top Gun, telling the traumatic tale of US Navy fighter pilot 'Maverick' and his training at an elite flight school, will be screened on Friday night.

Dirty Dancing, which tells the story of a summer romance between dance instructor Johnny and his pupil Baby, will be shown on the Saturday.

The films will be played against the scenic backdrop of the medieval Tonbridge Castle, and they are being brought to the county by the Luna Cinema – a leading producer of open air cinema events.

Now in its seventh season, the Luna Cinema puts on a nationwide programme of 120 screenings across the country, but this is the first time an open air cinema has come to Tonbridge.

Cabinet member for community



FUN: Audiences will be able to enjoy the open air cinema at Tonbridge castle.

services for Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Maria Heslop, said: "We welcome the Luna Cinema to Tonbridge.

"With two classic movies to choose from showing on a huge screen with the beautiful Castle and its lawn as the setting, this is a night at the movies not to be missed."

Cllr Heslop added: "This promises to be a fun night so pick up your

pilot's licence or carry a watermelon, put on your flight helmet or dancing shoes, meet friends, bring a picnic, pull up a blanket or dance under the stars to enjoy the experience of open air cinema at its very best."

Audiences are invited to bring their own chairs, picnics and drinks along to the event.

As well as this there will be hot food for sale and a bar on the site.

Tickets to the event are on sale now, priced at £13.50 for adults and £9 for children.

Family tickets are also available for two adults and two children, and they are priced at £27.

To book you can visit www.the-lunacinema.com.

Alternatively you can call Tonbridge Castle Gateway on 01732 770929 or visit in person to purchase tickets.

Reality star due in Dartford

REALITY TV star Charlotte Crosby will be signing copies of her new book, Me Me Me, at Waterstones Bluewater. Ms Crosby will be at the store on Tuesday (July 14) from 5.30pm.



Theatre in the sunshine

FAMILY show The Sorcerer's Apprentice will be performed at an outdoor theatre event at Ightham Mote, near Sevenoaks. It will take place on August 29 at 5.30pm and tickets are £15 for adults and £9 for children. Booking is essential and can be done by calling 0844 249 1895.

Joe Pasquale is back

COMEDIAN Joe Pasquale will be bringing his new show to the Theatre Royal Margate on August 18 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £17.50. For more details you can call the box office on 01843 292795.



Swashbuckling adventure

THE Pantaloons will be performing their swashbuckling adaptation of Treasure Island at Sissinghurst Castle garden. The show is suitable for people of all ages and it will take place on July 24 at 7pm. Tickets are £15 for adults and £8 for children. To book tickets, call 0844 249 1895.

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Anniversary celebrations

A FUN-filled day of activities will be taking place at the University of Kent to mark its 50th anniversary.

Musical, sporting and academic activities will be held on September 5.



Second World War marked

THE Gravesend and District Theatre Guild will be marking the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War with a new production called The Home Front.

It will combine plays, musical numbers and sketches.

To book, call 07738416183.

Hollywood special effects

THE Hollywood Special Effects Show will be telling audiences how movie scenes are created for the big screen at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, on October 4 at 5pm.

Call 01322 220000 to book.



Comedian on the stage

SCOTTISH comedian Fred MacAulay will be bringing his new show to the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury.

Mr MacAulay will be taking to the stage on September 16. The performance is not suitable for those aged under 16.

For details, visit www.marlowetheatre.com.

Sound of the sixties in sequel to hit musical

By Molly Kersey

molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

SHOWCASING the greatest hits of the 1960s, Dreamboats and Miniskirts will be making its way to Canterbury later this month.

The musical is the sequel to Dreamboats and Petticoats, which made its premiere in 2009 and became a musical phenomenon - playing to more than two million people across the UK.

The sequel tells the story of what happened to characters including Bobby, Laura, Norman and Sue.

Dreamboats and Petticoats charted the adventures of the aspiring performers Bobby and Laura, who manage to make it through to the final performance of a song-writing competition with their joint effort - pop song Dreamboats and Petticoats.

Fellow performer Norman, however, doesn't make the cut.

Set in 1963, the sequel shows the characters growing up and facing a new set of challenges.

Dreamboats and Miniskirts portrays a changing world, with the



rise of The Beatles and the Mersey Sound providing inspiration for many musicians.

But Bobby and Laura's single hasn't taken off, and it is now up to them to try and get one more shot at fame and stardom.

Norman and Sue, meanwhile, have settled down into non-marital bliss and they have had a baby.

Ray and Donna seem to be blissfully happy with their professional lives, but is everything as it seems?

What will become of Bobby and Laura's singing career?

And will Norman be inspired to 'get off the drains' and try to find the singing voice that he has been longing for?

The musical will feature a number of songs from the next era in pop history - featuring classic sixties rock 'n' roll hits such as Twist and Shout, Pretty Woman, One Fine Day and Handy Man.

Dreamboats and Miniskirts will be at the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, from July 20 to 25.

To book you can call the box office on 01227 787787 or visit www.marlowetheatre.com.



SIXTIES: Time has moved on. PICTURE BY Darren Bell Photography



MUSIC: The production will showcase hit sixties music

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Bringing a love of French bread to the world

Baker Eric Kayser is releasing a new book, containing tips on how to make brioches, baguettes or bagels

WATCHING French baker Eric Kayser at work in the kitchen, it's easy to see why he didn't consider any other career options in his youth.

The bread guru deftly cuts dough into small sections before rolling them into perfect little batards – which are like a baguette, but shorter – then presses an already-baked one to listen for that familiar crispy sound, explaining: “You want to hear the music.”

A fifth generation baker growing up in the Franche-Comte region, Kayser loved spending time in his father's bakery.

“As soon as I started to speak, I said to my family, ‘I want to be a baker and

travel,’” the red-headed boulanger explained.

“Coming from a small village, people thought I was crazy, but I repeated it when I was 10 years old. I repeated it I was 14 years old. And now, I do it,” he said.

Mr Kayser opened his first bread shop in Paris in 1996.

These days, he jets around the world to open new bakeries and “bring a love of French bread to people who have never tasted it”.

He's in the UK to promote his new book, *The Larousse Book Of Bread*, containing more than 80 mouth-watering recipes, and pass on some of his expert tips on creating the perfect brioche, baguette or bagel.

Making bread isn't easy, but with



BAKER: Eric Kayser is a fifth generation baker

simple equipment and good ingredients, something delicious can be created, according to Mr Kayser.

“If you have a small mixer, a good oven and your hands, it will be OK. And a good brain!” he said.

With all that kneading and proofing, however, baking bread from scratch isn't something most people can factor into their busy working lives.

But giving it a go once a week – or even once a month – is fine, explains Mr Kayser.

“You can do your bread or your brioche with your children, with your husband or wife, with your family, and afterwards you can share it,” the father-of-two adds.

“I think it's something very reli-

gious, because we hear for a long time that we need to share the bread.

“It's fantastic, it's a good experience and it's good for you to work with your hands.”

And if the end result is an underdone or burnt-to-a-crisp disaster?

“Patience is very important, and you can start again,” he said.

As the smell of freshly-baked bread fills the air, Kayser explains that he views the baker as an alchemist.

“All your life you need to be patient,” he said.

“If you want to do something, you need to do it a few times and understand how it will be.”

“You work with a few ingredients from the ground – flour, water, yeast – to do something beautiful.”

Footloose in Maidstone

MUSICAL Footloose will be performed in Maidstone in October.

The production is the Hazlitt Youth Theatre's annual musical, and it will be performed at the Hazlitt Theatre from October 29 to 31 at 7.30pm.

It tells the story of newcomer Ren McCormack, who arrives at a town that has made dancing and rock music illegal.

Visit www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk to book

Secrets and adventure

FAMILY show Up in the Attic will be performed at the Folkestone Quarterhouse on September 19.

It follows the adventures of three children, who journey through the attic at the top of an old house and discover the secrets that are hidden inside.

The show includes music and puppetry and is suitable for children aged three to six. Call 01303 760750 to book.

Jimmy Carr is in town

COMEDIAN Jimmy Carr will be bringing his new stand-up show Funny Business to the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone.

Mr Carr is the host of panel shows 8 Out of 10 Cats and The Big Fat Quiz of the Year.

The performance takes place on August 1 at 8pm.

Tickets start at £28.90.

For more information, or to book, visit www.atgtickets.com/folkestone.

'Brain hacker' on stage

THE star of ITV show You're Back in the Room, Keith Barry, will be taking to the stage in Tunbridge Wells.

Mr Barry will be bringing his new show, Brain Hacker, to the Assembly Hall Theatre.

The performance will take place on October 2 at 8pm.

Tickets are £17.50.

To book, you can visit www.assemblyhall-theatre.co.uk.



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Check www.hawkingecommunitycentre.co.uk for further details or call 01303 894857

Wildlife fun for everyone at Eagle Heights

BASED just five minutes from junction 3 of the M25, the Eagle Heights Wildlife Foundation is one of the largest bird of prey centres in the UK. It boasts a wide variety of birds including bald eagles, african fish eagles and vultures.

Eagle Heights is sure to impress everybody, with a number of daily

flying displays occurring at the centre. As well as the impressive selection of birds of prey, they also house huskies, meerkats, reptiles, camels and more.

For more information on Eagle Heights and all that they have to offer you can, visit www.eagle-heights.co.uk, call 01322 866577 or email to office@eagleheights.co.uk.



IMPRESSIVE: Birds of prey

Top day out at Tenterden's steam railway



EXPLORE: There will be special events

THE Kent & East Sussex Railway offers a fantastic family day out, and with a rover ticket you can explore the line all day. Special events include a day out with Thomas the Tank Engine on July 25 and 26, when Thomas the Tank Engine will be entertaining children. On August 29 to 31 the making Tracks for the Sixties

event has plenty of music, fashion and transport from the decade. Summer holiday deals include kids eating for £1 from July 27 to September 3 when purchased with an adult meal and 25 per cent off rover tickets with a voucher from www.kesr.org.uk for travel from July 21 to 23 and July 27 to August 2.

Learn how to sail or canoe this summer



ADVENTURE: Taster sessions are available

MEDWAY Watersports Trust is a charity that runs the Medway Outdoor Education Centre at the Strand, Gillingham. The Trust also has a lake at Cliffe where inexperienced adults and children may learn to sail or canoe safely. During the school holidays Medway Watersports are running taster courses, the first of

these being from July 28 to 31 and the second from August 4 to 7. Cost is £20 a day or £75 for all four days from 10am to 3pm. Evening courses are also available on Mondays from 6pm to 8pm to learn to sail and obtain RYA stage one and two qualifications. Cost is £20. Call 01634 68200 for more details.

See all that Camber Sands has to offer

CAMBER Sands has a wide range of entertainment and activities for you and your family to enjoy.

You can either immerse yourself in the fun and games or just dip in after a day out.

There is so much more to Camber Sands.

The park is situated on New Lydd Road, Camber, East Sussex. To find out more

about what it has to offer, you can call Mark on 07583975349 to arrange a VIP pass for a full tour of the park.

For more information you can visit their website at www.park-resorts.com/holiday-parks/kent-and-sussex/camber-sands.

Alternatively you can call them on 01797 222000.



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Wildlife park is home to 200 species

SINCE Wingham Wildlife Park was taken over by its current owners, Tony and Jackie Binskin, it has been able to grow every year. At the 2015 Kent Excellence in Business Awards they were in the top three finalists for the county's best tourist and hospitality business.

Mrs Binskin said: "2015 was the fourth year in a row where we were the most requested attraction in the My Kent Big Weekend by a pretty big margin, and we hope that everyone will use the great weather which this year has seen to visit us and see for themselves why there's such a buzz about Wingham Wildlife Park."

Wingham Wildlife Park has come a long way since the days of being a bird park and now boasts one of the most diverse cat collections in the country featuring jaguars, pumas, lions, tigers, cheetahs and caracals.

While birds are still ever present in the park – it is home to Kent's only penguins and somewhere you can get nose to beak with Flamingos – the collection has diversified to include more than 200 species, more than any other zoo in the county.

The animal numbers are growing from within, with a number of animals, both common and endangered, being born at the park in the first half of the year including penguins, ring tailed lemurs, snakes



DIVERSE: There are more than 200 species at Wingham Wildlife Park.

and red pandas. All of the staff are working hard to gear up for a busy summer and hopes are high that the attraction will see an increase in visitors.

Eyes are always looking ahead and there is huge anticipation for the eight ex-laboratory chimps coming from the USA later this year – a

project which is close to everyone's hearts at the park, and visitors can see the great headway being made on this 22,000 square foot retirement

home for the ex-laboratory chimps.

For more information about the park, please head to www.winghamwildlifepark.co.uk.

Kent University celebrates its 50th

THROUGHOUT their anniversary year the university will celebrate the students, staff, friends and the wider community who have made the University of Kent of today.

Join them for fun-filled day of activities at the 50th Festival on September 5. There is a packed programme of musical, sporting and academic activities – from street entertainment and science experiments to live music and creative performances, there will be something for everyone.

Taking place at the university's Canterbury campus, the 50th Festival will feature over 100 activities and performances for people to get involved in.

Build and launch a rocket and discover your inner cavemen or cavewoman. Are you brave enough to enter the dragons' den or is crowd sourced poetry for you? Understand the science of tsunamis, become a light-graffiti artist and dance with robots. All this and much, much more!

The Kent Wheel is one of the biggest attractions of the celebrations. It is an exciting opportunity to see the university and the city of Canterbury, of-



ANNIVERSARY: There will be over 100 activities taking place

featuring a panoramic view of the surrounding areas. The wheel is open to everyone from Kent's community to enjoy.

The wheel will be on the Canterbury Campus – Rutherford/Eliot Lawn – from July 1 to October 15. It is 33m tall, has 24 'pods' and takes around 10 minutes per journey. Prices start at £3 for children and £5

for adults. All profits from ticket sales go into the Kent Opportunity Fund which funds scholarships to the university.

The wheel will be open from noon to 9pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; noon to 10pm on Fridays and Saturdays and noon to 6pm on Sundays. Visit www.kent.ac.uk for more details.



OPPORTUNITY: A male soccer assessment will be taking place in Maidstone.

Chance to win soccer scholarship in US

WANT to follow in the footsteps of Frank Lampard and Steven Gerrard and play in the MLS? One route is to first play college soccer at an American university. UK based scholarship consultancy United Sports USA are holding a male soccer assessment match at the Gallagher Stadium, Maid-

stone, on August 2 to find college soccer stars.

Playing college soccer gives you the opportunity to play at world class facilities, against top class opposition, and earn a degree in the field of your choice – you can study anything from sports coaching to law, or medicine. The scholarship can cover tuition, room

and board, hence you can save thousands by using your soccer talents to pay for your further education. College soccer could be the stepping stone to a professional career and United Sports USA, with over 20 years' experience, can help you on your way. If this is a dream of yours apply to www.unitedsportsusa.com today.



TAKE A RIDE ON THE KENT WHEEL

The Kent Wheel will be at our Canterbury campus from 1 July – 15 October.

Don't miss your chance to see Canterbury from the air.

Prices start from £3.

Kent.ac.uk/50/celebrate

University of
Kent



Want to follow in the footsteps of Frank Lampard and Steven Gerrard and play in the MLS?



United Sports USA are holding a male soccer assessment match at the Gallagher Stadium, Maidstone on Sunday 2nd August to find the next batch of college soccer stars.

Playing college soccer gives you the opportunity to

- Play at world class facilities
- Against top class opposition
- Earn a degree in the field of your choice – you can study anything from sports coaching to law, or medicine.
- The scholarship can cover tuition, room and board. Hence, you can save thousands on your further education by using your soccer talents.
- Exposure to MLS and other professional clubs

If this a dream of yours don't waste any time and apply to www.unitedsportsusa.com today!



See what top golfing venue has to offer

LITTLESTONE Golf Club is one of the UK's top golfing venues – right on your doorstep.

It is a unique and atmospheric Championship Links Course laid out on the natural undulating links land on the famous Romney Marsh.

The club is steeped in tradition having been there since 1888 but it has a relaxed and friendly atmosphere that welcomes visiting golfers from all over the globe.

The course is presented in superb condition throughout the year and temporary tees and greens are unheard of, making it a one of the best places in Kent to play winter golf as the course rarely floods and drains extraordinarily quickly.

Recognised as being one of the top 100 courses in England in several golfing publications including Golf World and Your Club Golfer, one visiting golf journalist from Switzerland happily quotes: "I would like to thank you for the opportunity to play at Littlestone last week."

"It has been a real treat and I can only say this is one great track."

"I have rarely experienced a course where I could remember almost every hole after the very first time going around – a clear sign of the high quality of the layout."

"I think I could play Littlestone



SUPERB: The course is presented in great condition throughout the year, rarely flooding and draining very quickly.

every day and it would never become bland."

Indeed a recent report by the R & A Agronomist calls the greens "mag-

nificent" and states "they are some of the best examples of firm, true and well-paced putting greens in the UK."

During the first week of August,

Littlestone Golf Club will be holding their open week.

This is an opportunity for golfers from all over the south of England to

come and join in a week long list of competitions at a fraction of the usual green fee rate.

The price for each competition is just £40 per person, which includes food too!

Sarah Saunders, the club's marketing manager, said: "We are immensely proud of our course and club and this is the perfect week for other golfers in the area to come down and enjoy what we have to offer and to meet our members and their guests."

For details of all the events planned during the open week you can visit the website at www.littlestonegolfclub.org.uk to download the application form.

There is also a PGA South Region Pro Am at the Championship Links course on September 26.

For details of this event please contact Andrew Jones, director of golf, on 01797 363355.

Membership of Littlestone Championship Links course starts at £500.

This is the price for a 2nd Club Membership and you must live at least 10 miles from the club to qualify.

Littlestone Warren Memberships start from only £39.

For more information about Littlestone Golf Course you can view their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Littlestone-Golf-Club.

You can also follow them on Twitter at @littlestonegc.

www.littlestonegolfclub.org.uk

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Stunning sea views at Cliffsend cafe

THE Viking Ship Cafe, at Cliffsend near Ramsgate, offers the perfect spot for relaxing, with stunning views across the water. Located by the Viking Ship, this is the ideal spot for visitors, dog walkers and locals alike. It has a large, free car park, with access to the Coastal Viking Trail, the bicycle path and the beautiful beach, and

it is easily accessible for wheelchair users. The cafe is open through to October from 10am to 5pm every day and is family-run by a very experienced team of staff. The cafe is child and dog friendly, with lots of outside space for both to let off some steam. Along with freshly ground coffee the cafe serves home made food.



FRIENDLY: The cafe is family-run

Kentish Food and Craft Fair hits right note



FALCON: There will be a demonstration

THE Kentish Food and Craft Fair with live jazz is now an annual event at Doddington Place Gardens. This year's event takes place on July 19. The fair begins at 11am, and with over 20 local producers and artisans taking part this promises to be a great opportunity to sample the best Kent has to offer. With

stalls including preserves, fudge and jewellery, there will be something for everyone. Jazz band Jo Francis & The Blue Notes will play two sets at around 1pm and 3pm. There will be a falconry demonstration at 4pm in the gardens, and the tea room offers delicious homemade light lunches and cakes.

Internationally-acclaimed choir on stage



TALENTED: Choir will be in Canterbury

THE internationally-acclaimed Morriston Orpheus Choir will be performing at the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, ahead of a short tour taking in several war memorials in Belgium and France. It will perform at the Menin Gate ceremony in Ypres and at Amiens Cathedral. With musical director, Joy Amman-Davies, the

choir will provide a varied programme. Accompanying them on stage will be Snowdown Colliery Welfare Male Voice Choir and the Folkestone Symphony Orchestra. All participants will have their own solo slots. They will perform on July 26 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £25. To book call 01227 787787.

Raise cash for hospice at wheelie race

THE Three Horseshoes charity wheelie bin race in aid of the Pilgrims Hospice will be taking place on Saturday, August 8, at Staple Street, Hernhill, from 12.30pm. The road will be closed at midday. Lots of bins all dressed up in different themes will be racing against the clock, four in a team, along Staple Street with beer stops along

the route. There will be an outside bar, bbq and music with the Leigh Highwood band plus guests playing after the race. Anyone wishing to enter a bin, should call the Three Horseshoes for details. There will be auctions and raffles, with all monies going to the Pilgrims Hospice, Canterbury. Have fun and support your local hospice!



BIN: Raise cash for hospice at wheelie race

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Families kept entertained at Millbrook

LOOKING for something different to do with your children over the summer?

With the school holidays in full swing, August can be a tough time to keep the family entertained.

Millbrook Garden Centre has the answer, with their Loving Summer festival taking place at their Gravesend Garden Centre from August 3 to 14 and the arrival of Paulos Circus for circus fun – running from August 12 to 16 at their Staplehurst Garden Centre and from August 19 to 31 at their Gravesend store.

The Loving Summer festival will enable you to keep the kids entertained whatever the weather.

A gorgeous marquee situated among the plants will give shade if it's boiling, shelter if it's raining and grass to picnic and play on all day long. Come along for a morning or afternoon session, or make the most of the festival and stay for the whole day, to enjoy entertainment, craft activities, action packed workshops and free children's activities.

Tickets for the festival cost £6, which includes all materials and free face painting.

Each day there will be free pop-up activities around the Garden Centre.

For details, you can visit www.millbrookgc.co.uk.

Circus lovers in Kent will be pleased



ACTIVITIES: There will be a variety of entertainment on offer this summer at Millbrook Garden Centre

to hear that Paulos Circus will be performing at Millbrook Garden Centre in Staplehurst and Gravesend.

It will be featuring clowns, acro-

bats, aerial silks, jugglers, unicyclists, and many more amazing acts.

Tickets cost £7 and can be purchased in store or at www.shop.millbrookgc.co.uk.

Millbrook is inviting children aged four to 11 to create a picture showing their favourite circus act.

The winners will receive two tickets to the circus, with their poster displayed in store. Visit www.millbrookgc.co.uk to enter before July 19.

CIRCUS

Paulos Circus at Millbrook...

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Reliving musical legends in Detroit

TRAVEL REVIEW: Detroit

by Jez Smadja

STANDING on the freshly clipped lawn outside Motown's first recording studio, an Arts and Crafts-style house on West Grand Boulevard in Midtown Detroit, I feel like a pilgrim who's just disembarked in the Holy Land.

Located in a residential neighbourhood where every home has a front porch and car in the driveway, it was here that in 1959, Berry Gordy Jr laid the foundations for a music empire that would launch the careers of The Supremes, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder and – after signing the Jackson 5 – an 11-year-old Michael Jackson.

Hitsville USA, the name written above the front door, has been faithfully preserved. There's the reception desk once manned by Martha Reeves pre-the Vandellas, Berry Gordy's bedroom, which was often used by Marvin Gaye as a crash pad, and a vending machine with Baby Ruth candy kept religiously in the fourth column so 'little' Stevie Wonder knew where his favourite sweets were.

The Motown Museum's irrepressible guide, a lady blessed with a voice that can only come from singing in church, insists we can't leave until we've sung at least one song from the Motown archives.

We dutifully comply, but it feels like sacrilege caterwauling in a studio where they churned out classics around the clock, day after day, week after week.

It's no secret that Berry Gordy modelled his record label on the car assembly lines that he experienced firsthand at the Lincoln-Mercury plant.

You can't grow up in Detroit and not have some connection to the car industry. This is, after all, Motor City.

It's home to the Big Three - Ford,



COMEBACK: Residents are calling Detroit the comeback kid.

Chrysler and General Motors – and their mark is visible throughout the city, from the glass towers of the GM Renaissance Center to the Ford Field football stadium.

It's why the inexorable decline of American car manufacturing since the 1980s has hit the city like a clean right-hook.

From 2000 to 2010, the population of metropolitan Detroit plunged by 25 per cent to 700,000. In July 2013, the

city filed for Chapter 9 bankruptcy. And then, to everyone's surprise, the city recorded its first population increase in 60 years.

It may be premature, but residents are calling Detroit the comeback kid. Neo-Gothic skyscrapers are being rehatted from empty shells into loft apartments and hip hotels. One of the newest to open, the Aloft Detroit, in the 19-story David Whitney Building, boasting a spectacular four-floor

atrium, has given a second-life to what was one of the pillars of Downtown. Everywhere you turn there are signs of a new wave of optimism.

In the window of the Guardian Building, a neon sign reads Nothing Stops Detroit. The buoyant mood has even filtered down to the billboard adverts. One for T-Mobile reads, 'A Strong City Needs a Strong Data Network'.

In that most enduring of American

TRAVEL FACTS

Jez Smadja was a guest of Virgin Atlantic, which now flies daily from London Heathrow to Detroit from £737 per person return in economy.

For more information you can visit www.virginatlantic.com or call 0844 2092 770.

Premium economy fares are from £1,167 per person and upper class fares are from £2,657 per person.

dreams, Detroit has become the land of opportunity. Low rents, vacant properties and a can-do attitude are transforming a city from the brink of bankruptcy into a hotbed of innovation and off-the-grid thinking. It's become a magnet for entrepreneurs and boasts the highest concentration of commercial and industrial designers in the US.

The Saturday morning market at Eastern Market, one mile north of Downtown, amid graffiti-covered meat warehouses, is the most obvious sign of the city's reinvigorated mojo.

Teeming with Detroiters and suburbanites of all races and ethnicities, this historic market stretches across five 'sheds'. Two of them contain the farmer's market, where spiky and ruddy-faced food producers sell everything from Michigan-grown heirloom tomatoes to Detroit Bold coffee. Another shed is an avenue of blooming flowers and perennials.

It was Henry Ford himself who said that 'failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently.'

It's a lesson Detroit has taken to heart as it accelerates at warp-speed to a brighter, smarter, greener tomorrow.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith



LOVE & MERCY
(12A, 121 mins) Drama/Romance/Musical

FORMED in 1961, The Beach Boys perfectly captured the vitality and exuberance of California's youth culture, surfing to the top of the charts with harmonised feel-good hits including I Get Around and

Help Me, Rhonda.

The sunny, wholesome dispositions of brothers Brian, Dennis and Carl Wilson, cousin Mike Love and friend Al Jardine concealed dark discord. The Wilson boys covered in the shadow of their abusive father Murry, who managed the band, and main songwriter Brian was experiencing early manifestations of a mental illness, which combined symptoms of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Bill Pohlad's sensitive biopic explores this turbulent period in the band's history, juxtaposing Brian's first battles with his illness and the love affair, some 20 years later, which provided the creative spark for his award-winning solo album, Smile.

Scriptwriters Oren Moverman and Michael A Lerner overcome the daunting prospect of dual timeframes with finesse, while director Pohlad elicits strong

performances from Paul Dano and John Cusack as the two incarnations of a song-writing genius.

TED 2
(15, 116 mins) Comedy/Romance/Action

IN 2012, writer-director Seth MacFarlane's mismatched buddy comedy Ted was a surprise hit.

Man's best friend wasn't a dog after all - it was a potty-mouthed, talking teddy with a penchant for beer and scantily clad ladies.

Sadly, the bear necessities of modern life don't stretch to a second film because Ted 2 is padded with as much fluff as the huggable hero. The sweetness and romance, which distinguished the original Ted, have been diluted to the point of blandness here and a climactic set piece at a pop culture convention is an unsightly mess.

Between the frequent yawns,



MacFarlane conjures moments of magic - new love interest Amanda Seyfried's a cappella rendition of 'Mean Ol' Moon'; a bizarre yet hilarious cameo by Liam Neeson - but these are fleeting.

THE CHOIR
(PG, 103 mins) Drama

AN inspirational teacher attempts to

coax a troubled boy out of his shell in this heart-warming human drama directed by Francois Girard. 11-year-old Stet is left to fend for himself when his alcoholic mother dies in a car accident. The boy's father agrees to pack him off to the National Boychoir Academy, where Stet's singing voice can be honed by head conductor Carvello and his assistants Drake and Wooly

EVERYTHING is blooming in the rose garden this year, thanks to the mild winter and spring, with little in the way of frost, providing stress-free conditions for growing.

Varieties looking particularly stunning include Super Trouper, Aphrodite and Lady of Shalott, as well as English old rose hybrids such as Gertrude Jekyll and Darcey Bussell.

While they once used to be grown on their own in dedicated beds, they're now grown in mixed borders with other shrubs and perennials, but given the huge variety of roses on sale you have to be careful what to plant and where to achieve the best results. Compact roses with an upright habit are suitable for small gardens where beds are only 1m wide, so choose compact floribundas, patio roses and smaller English roses.

For larger borders you'll get a great effect planting less vigorous varieties in threes which will grow together to appear like one big shrub, while larger shrub roses are best planted singly further back in the border.

Good plant partners include clematis, which can climb through the roses and enjoy the same conditions and similar feeds, while in mixed borders soften roses with airy specimens such as catmint or lavender, which look amazing beneath creamy rose flowers, or mix it up with Alchemilla mollis and perennial geraniums.

If you want a longer season, it's worth looking for repeat-flowering



BLOOMING: Rose gardens are set to thrive thanks to this year's weather conditions providing good conditions for growth.

Everything's coming up roses

shrub roses such as Portland or English roses from David Austin which combine the flower form of old shrub roses with the repeat-flowering quality of many modern varieties.

So, how do we keep our roses blooming? By midsummer the first flush is usually coming to an end, so you'll need to tidy up shrub and bush varieties by dead-heading and re-

moving clusters of faded flowers. When the flowers of floribundas and hybrid tea roses have faded, remove the whole truss, cutting the stem just above the second or third leaf down. This will help conserve the plant's energy to bear a regular succession of new flowering shoots.

They'll need to be fed with a dose of granular fertiliser and watered

thoroughly if the ground is dry.

Keep a look out for signs of fungal disease including black spot and mildew. They may need spraying regularly with a fungicide to keep diseases at bay and also look out for colonies of aphids on the stems, which will also require spraying as blackfly and greenfly populations can build up rapidly. If you only have a small infes-

tation, a sharp jet of water should dislodge the aphids, or you may be able rub them off the affected area. Otherwise, use an organic pesticide based on plant extracts, soft or insecticidal soap or plant oils.

Hopefully, a little TLC will lead to repeat-flowering blooms and a delicious heady fragrance during those balmy summer evenings.

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Surprise of MEP fracking reply

MANY of us recently wrote to our MEPs urging them to support a moratorium on fracking in the EU parliament.

While we received considered and thoughtful replies from most of them, this is what we all received from Janice Atkinson, former Ukip, now independent, MEP for the south east:

"I support fracking as I believe in the long term this will drastically reduce fuel bills which is beneficial to the low paid, pensioners and industry.

"I worry about the anti-fracking lobby funded by foreign interests."

I think her constituents, especially those who voted for her, have the right to expect that their elected representatives take the trouble to understand the issues on which they vote on behalf of their electors, to get their facts right, and to engage in reasoned debate.

As for the anti-fracking lobby being funded by foreign interests, I am at a loss to know where you could possibly get this idea. I have been active in East Kent Against Fracking (EKAF) for more than four years now and can assure you that every single person I have met, who is against fracking is a local resident who has taken the trouble to do some research on the issue and been horrified by what they have unearthed.

Rosie Rechter,
via email

Hunting typhoid victim details

I AM researching the Maidstone typhoid epidemic of 1897-8 which is thought to have claimed at least 132 lives.

Over 1,800 people caught typhoid fever during the five month epidemic which was caused by infected water from the Farleigh Spring, one of the springs supplying Maidstone.

Residents who received water from the Boarley Spring are said to have survived – and often lived opposite the victims. Initially, the hoppers visiting the area were blamed for the cause of the outbreak as they were camping near to the source. After a public inquiry the epidemic was found to have been caused by defects of drainage and sewerage along with a polluted water supply.

Maidstone Borough Council had, in order to save money reduced the

LETTER OF THE WEEK



How many schools has Ofsted failed?

IT WAS recently reported that 1,200 Ofsted Inspectors were sacked because they were "not good enough".

Presumably we will never know how many children, teachers and schools, in Kent and elsewhere, have suffered because of this supposed incompetence.

It is time for a review of the whole Ofsted empire and time perhaps for a new system for moderating standards, with hopefully much more local awareness of the issues facing teachers and schools.

We need a regime that asks questions about coasting schools and about the learning needs of all children.

However, Ofsted's influence has been too invasive, too inclined to control the workings of schools

and it has led to perverse outcomes, with some teachers reportedly using unprofessional means to secure good results.

There is much more to educating young people than simply testing them. Too much that is good about teaching has been subordinated to that which can be easily measured.

We do not need to ease up on improving standards but it is time to remember that there is more to learning, personal development, social understanding, and physical and mental health, than being continually tested and put into league tables.

Roger Truelove
Deputy leader of the Labour group on Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone

The big debate is now on climate

SO NOW Phil Granger tries to conflate unrelated issues such as Auschwitz with those previously discussed (KoS, letters, last week).

However, whilst I have not had the chance to visit Auschwitz, as he has, I have long been involved with the UK Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and the local commemoration since inception, so am well aware of the horrors involved and can say there's no linkage.

The rest of his letter is though, in my view, rather hysterical in both senses of the word; and he continues with his climate change denial despite never having provided a

scrap of credible and verifiably independent modern scientific evidence against it.

The 18th century Bauche Map is basically taken from speculation, earlier maps, and rough reports from sailors blown off course. Once Antarctica was confirmed it was found to be entirely ice covered, as has been proven from various ice cores etc, and to have been so for many millennia.

The 17th century cold period was what is now known to be a 3-400 year Sun cycle called the Maunder Minimum. Another such is expected between 2050-2100 but the circa 0.1 per cent drop in solar input will be vastly outweighed by the man-made rise in CO2 emissions over the last 200 years or so.

Thus our winters may just be colder rather than freezing as before.

Elsewhere he likely ignores the recent science on the sixth greatest species extinction; partly caused by our overpopulation alongside climate change; and the latest concerns about rising ocean warming and acidification.

Lastly, I just suggest that he avails himself of the Pope's recent Encyclical; the Archbishop of Canterbury's similar concerns; and the for adults book: 'Cartoon Introduction to Climate Change', and then use them for bedtime reading to fully understand the realities of the issues.

Ray Duff,
Folkestone

Hysteria over Manston issues

JUST why do those in support of Manston Airport get quite so hysterical?

I can only conclude they are obsessed with there not being any sort of change on a site which has had so much money - public and private - invested in it, but has never yet turned a profit.

Given that, I am at a loss at why there is this clamour that if given just one more chance, it will suddenly become so crucial to the isle.

Surely, if the economy is the key issue here, why not support a different scheme which could generate far more new jobs.

What's more, they seem determined to cling to every possible conspiracy story about the airport to somehow justify their argument.

I think if they were to devote similar time and effort to a worthwhile cause, then it would be a sensible change of direction.

T Smith,
Broadstairs

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles:

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.

2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.

3) Be written in clear, concise English.

4) Not be overly sensational.

5) Have a sense of humour.

6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.

7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.

8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.



**River Stour,
Canterbury**
by **Win Dalton, from
Kennington**

To see your photograph printed, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk, or post it to **Archant KOS Media, Images of Kent, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford, TN23 1PP**. Be sure to include your name, address and a contact telephone number. Unfortunately we cannot return any prints, and please do not send negatives. Note: all digital images must be no less than 200dpi. Please note, our relationship with MyFerryLink has now come to an end. We thank them for their long support.



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An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1200 students including 320 in the co-educational Sixth Form
 A member of The Williamson Trust

'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted - "a buzz of excitement pervades the school"

Part Time School Science Laboratory Technician

Hours: 30 hours per week term time only (38 weeks)

Grade: D2 point 12 - 21

Salary: £15,523 - £19,742 per annum pro rata (£12,715 - £16,170)

We require a Science Laboratory Technician 30 hours per week (09.00 - 15.45 inclusive of a 45 minute lunch break) Monday - Friday) (38 weeks) to work within the Science Department at this highly successful grammar school from 1st September 2015.

You will be motivated, conscientious and a reliable person able to work effectively as a member of a team as well as individually. Experiences in a laboratory environment with school technician experience would be an advantage.

If you are interested in working with bright, talented pupils, then please contact the P A to the Headteacher Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, (harrisonj@sjwms.co.uk) 01634 844008 or visit our website www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk where further details and an application form can be downloaded.

OFSTED awarded the school an outstanding grade in every category in our most recent inspection, commenting that "students thrive within its distinctive ethos, enabling them to succeed academically and to develop into confident, well-rounded individuals who are prepared extremely well for their future lives."

The School was designated one of the first 100 National Teaching Schools and is a National Support School.

The Williamson Trust currently consists of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, The Hundred of Hoo Academy, High Halstow Primary School, Elaine Primary Academy, Allhallows Primary Academy, Stoke Community School and finally, as a co-sponsored academy, St James Church of England Primary Academy, all providing exceptional career development opportunities.

We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Closing date for applications - 20th July 2015
 Interviews will take place week beginning 20th July 2015



We have the following opportunities from September 2016:

PART TIME TECHNOLOGY TECHNICIAN

16 hours over 3 days each week term time only
Kent Range 4 - £5,900 to £6,2306 pa

Responsibilities will include the preparation of items and equipment for a wide range of technology lessons from use of laser cutters to technology saws, drills and associated equipment. Directly supporting students in their lesson projects under the direction of our specialist teaching staff and responsibility for the Health & Safety and maintenance routines of the area are key to the role.

Whilst experience in the technology area and an understanding of equipment is key to this role, your ability to support, innovate and inspire challenge in the subject will be valuable to the job.

Applicants should have a relevant qualification or commercial experience in this or a similar subject.

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS for STUDENTS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

31.25 hours per week term time only
Kent Range 4 £11,616 to £12,204 pa
and 20 hours per week (over 5 days)
Kent Range 4 £ £7,434 to £ 7,810 pa

Responsibilities will include supporting the physical and learning needs of a named student in accessing all aspects of the curriculum and school life, including personal hygiene needs on occasions. The successful applicant will work under the guidance of our Inclusion Manager and be part of a team of support for students requiring specific needs and adaptations to allow full engagement with education.

A further opportunity exists for 20 hours per week supporting the needs of identified individuals, including Pupil Premium students and other groups who need support to overcome barriers in learning both inside and outside the school.

Northfleet School for Girls is committed to offering a full and varied curriculum balanced with a care and determination to ensure students not only succeed but enjoy their time at our school.

Kent County Council and all its personnel are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

For further information, to arrange a visit and to apply please contact
Mrs Jo Annable HR Assistant at Northfleet School for Girls,
Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent

Tel: 01474 831020

Email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk

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Swale Academies Trust



Westlands School

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Site Maintenance Technician/Caretaker

Required as soon as possible

£14,671 - £16,633 - 37 hours a week

The successful applicant will work as a member of the Site Maintenance team to provide a comprehensive, well organised and effective caretaking service to this large secondary school. The post is line-managed by the Site Manager. As well as general caretaking duties, they will be expected to undertake site maintenance.

A working knowledge and experience of carpentry, electrics, plumbing and decorating would be desirable. The ability to drive a minibus, or a willingness to undertake training, would be beneficial.

Applicants should be flexible over start and finish times.

Shifts will be between the hours of 5.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. and may alternate fortnightly.

Extra payments will be made to cover any out-of-hours lettings during evenings and weekends and for weekend/Bank Holiday standby duty, all of which are carried out on a mandatory, shared rota basis.

Recruitment packs with full details are available from Westlands School or online; (www.westlands.org.uk). An application form and covering letter detailing how you meet the person specification should be provided.

Please note, we cannot accept CVs alone. No agencies

Closing date: Wednesday 15 July 2015, interviews w/c 20 July

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check

Contact Details

Tel: 01795 477475 - Fax: 01795 479461 - Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Cox MA

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA



Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732

Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

Audit Committee

The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable of Kent Police have an Audit Committee to provide an independent and high level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin their good governance and financial standards.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner currently has a vacancy for one member and is seeking applications from people who have:

- High level experience of scrutinising financial information & processes
- Understanding of risk control
- Understanding of and demonstrable commitment to the Nolan Principles
- Willingness to give the time commitment (including reading, preparation time and ad hoc meetings).
- Experience of operating at a senior level in a complex organisation with a variety of stakeholder interests.

The Committee meets around four times a year.

Members will be paid a daily rate of £211.50 (half rate for half days).

Please note, this role requires a level of vetting

For the full details, and to apply, please visit **www.kent-pcc.gov.uk**

CVs and completed applications must be returned to the above address by midday on the 27th July. **contactourpcc@pcc.kent.pnn.police.uk**

Interviews will be held on the 27th August.

For further information, please contact

Mr Sean Nolan or Ms Laura Steward on 01622 677055.





Full and Part time Finance Assistants Required

Grade: D2 – Salary: £15,523 - £19,742 per annum (Full Time Equivalent)
Part Time Hours: 30 hours a week term time plus 10 days
pro-rata (£10,758 - £13,682)

We require Finance staff to support the central team of finance assistants within the Williamson Trust of secondary and primary schools.

You will be a motivated, conscientious and a reliable person able to work effectively as a member of a team as well as individually. Experience in a school finance office essential and using PS Financials accounting software would be an advantage.

OFSTED awarded the school an outstanding grade in every category in our most recent inspection, commenting that "students thrive within its distinctive ethos, enabling them to succeed academically and to develop into confident, well-rounded individuals who are prepared extremely well for their future lives."

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Hours: 20 hours per week term time only (38 weeks)

Grade: C1 point range 17 - 26

Salary: £17,372 - £22,937 per annum pro rata (£7,744 - £10,225)

Applications are invited for the part-time post of School Librarian to manage and be responsible for the promotion and development of our well-resourced library and to provide support for teaching and learning across the curriculum.

The successful applicant will need to possess good IT skills.

The library uses the Eclipse automated system.

OFSTED awarded the school an outstanding grade in every category in our most recent inspection, commenting that "students thrive within its distinctive ethos, enabling them to succeed academically and to develop into confident, well-rounded individuals who are prepared extremely well for their future lives."

The School was designated one of the first 100 National Teaching Schools and is a National Support School.

If you are interested in working with bright, talented pupils, then please contact the P A to the Headteacher Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, (harrisonj@sjwms.co.uk) 01634 844008 or visit our website www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk where further details and an application form can be downloaded.

The Williamson Trust currently consists of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, The Hundred of Hoo Academy, High Halstow Primary School, Elaine Primary Academy, Allhallows Primary Academy, Stoke Community School and finally, as a co-sponsored academy, St James Church of England Primary Academy, all providing exceptional career development opportunities.

We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Closing date for applications – 20th July 2015
 Interviews will take place week beginning 20th July 2015

Aspire – Achieve – Excel



Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEOM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Staff Nurse (Outpatients/Pre-Assessment) – Margate

Part time Hours: 30 per week Closing date: 24/07/2015
 Salary: £19,000-20,000

Qualifications and Experience

- Registered Nurse 1st level or Dual Trained Registered Nurse
- Evidence of continual professional development
- Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/medical procedures

Interviews for this role will be held on 3 August 2015

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Carolyn Flegg, Outpatients Manager on 07925 978812

Senior Staff Nurse – Margate

Full time Hours: 37.5 per week Closing date: 24/07/2015
 Salary: £26-28,000 per annum dependant on experience

Qualifications

- Registered Nurse 1st Level
- Minimum 2 years' experience, preferably in a surgical environment with a broad knowledge and understanding of multi specialist surgical procedures
- Evidence of continual professional development
- Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent

Interviews for this role will be held on 29 July 2015

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Mary Guarnieri, Ward Manager, 07786 173797

For a job description and application form please visit
www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Justine Whittle, HR Assistant

Telephone: 01304 245943

E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com

Spencer Private Hospitals is an equal opportunity employer. These positions are subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.



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CATS Canterbury is an independent Sixth Form College offering a broad range of pre-university programmes to international students and are looking to appoint:

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Night House Parents

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Bank House Parents

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Candidates should have a caring attitude and a high level of customer service. An ability to work using one's own initiative as well as being a good team player is a pre-requisite. Experience gained within a child care environment is desirable.

To apply for any of the above posts please contact Ms Peters on vpeters@catscanterbury.com or visit our website at www.cambridgeeducationgroup.com/en/static/jobs to download an application form and job description.

All candidates must complete an application form as CV's cannot be accepted.

The closing date for all applications is Mid-day Friday 31st July 2015.

CATS College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. Successful applicants will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS disclosure. As an equal opportunities employer CATS College is committed to treating all applicants and employees in the same way regardless of race or colour, nationality or national or ethnic origin, religion or religious belief, sex or marital status, sexual orientation, disability or age.

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice under Section 27

Trustee Act 1925

John Ormsby Tudor Owen, deceased

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Died on 13th July 2014

If you have a claim against this estate please write to us with details before 30th September 2015.

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Pengillys LLP Solicitors,
Post Office Chambers, 67 St Thomas Street, Weymouth,
Dorset, DT4 8HB
Ref: 35758/001/CMB

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF A SEX ESTABLISHMENT LICENCE

ADDRESS OF PREMISES

Ashford Club, First floor, 2-6 High Street, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8TD.

TAKE NOTICE that we

WKM Leisure Ltd of Ashford Club, First floor, 2-6 High Street, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8TD hereby give notice that we have applied to the **Ashford Borough Council** under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 to renew a licence to use the premises referred to above as a sexual entertainment venue.

REPRESENTATIONS

Any person who wishes to make representations about the application should make them in writing and send them to Head of Environmental Services, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL. Representations must be received by 28 July 2015

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Kerslake is the Gills new assistant boss

Justin Edinburgh confident with his new assistant manager



GAFFER: Boss Justin Edinburgh is confident Kerslake is the right man for the job with Gillingham

Football

By Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

THE GILLS have a new number two, after it was announced on Monday that David Kerslake would be taking over as assistant coach.

He's worked with Gills gaffer Justin Edinburgh before, with the pair taking to the pitch together when Edinburgh played at Tottenham Hotspur.

Kerslake joins the club following Gills stalwart Andy Hessenthaler's departure for Leyton Orient, after 20 years at Priestfield.

Kerslake arrived at Gillingham with a raft of both playing, and management experience.

He spent 15 years playing at right back with clubs such as Swindon

Town, Queens Park Rangers and Leeds.

The 49-year-old decided to move into management after his playing career ended, taking his first job at Nottingham Forest, before a brief stint in charge at Wigan.

He also went back to the Spurs, helping with the club's academy.

When the job at Priestfield came up, Kerslake says he didn't have any doubts about throwing his hat into the ring.

He said: "I've known Justin for a quite a while and watched him progress as a manager and when he gave me the opportunity to be assistant manager I jumped at the chance.

"Justin phoned me when Hess resigned; he gave me a call and asked if I would be interested. I said yes.

"Justin is a friend and very much a progressive manager. I've played here and come here as a member of staff

and it's always been a well-run club.

"Everyone at the club has been extremely welcoming, the boys are looking in good shape and I'm looking forward to the challenge ahead now."

Edinburgh was happy to have his old colleague on board at the Gills.

He said: "I'm really pleased David has agreed to join us, we were teammates at Tottenham and he's a very experienced coach who has worked at some very big football clubs."

The Gills look strong, winning their first pre-season friendly 3-0 against Folkestone on Tuesday evening.

Edinburgh said: "The attitude of the players was excellent and it was a worthwhile workout. There were glimpses of quality at times from all the new signings. We are working up towards the start of the season and this is where it starts."

Bell-Drummond credits Key with T20 success

WITH just three games left before the quarterfinal stages of the Nat-west T20 Blast, Kent Spitfires are proving strong contenders.

The team have performed well throughout, racking up some impressive wins so far, delighting fans with their domination of teams like the Sussex Sharks.

One of the county's secret weapons has been star-batsman Daniel Bell-Drummond.

The 21-year-old has been in devastating form recently, even scoring heavily against the Australian Ashes touring party when they dropped into Kent.

He says he is particularly happy with his T20 performances, putting much of his success down to elder statesman of the Kent side, Rob Key.

He said: "I feel I've improved quite



FORM: Bell-Drummond hopes he can keep his performances up

a bit in T20. I'm getting the mode of it better having spoken to Keysy about the tactics.

"A little like me, Keysy wasn't one for smashing it out of the park, but he found a way in this format to score runs consistently by using the pace of the bowler to deflect and shape the ball into his scoring areas.

"For me, he was the ideal player to chat with, and he's helped develop my game plans."

The former under-19 England batsman is hopeful the Spitfires can continue to roar in the short form.

He said: "The team has been going well in the format with Northeast as the stand out batter in the country, so we've been posting big scores and proved a force to be reckoned with."

And Bell-Drummond also hopes his batting performances continue.

He said: "Hopefully I can continue my run of form, but anything can happen in T20."

Sport Shorts

» Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk or call Jamie Weir on 01233 653481

Hybrid sport footgolf gets Darts hole in one

DARTFORD FC have announced that Princes Park is set to start hosting a new sport - footgolf.

The Darts have partnered with the UK Footgolf Association to become the first football pitch in the country to host not only traditional football, but also footgolf - a new hybrid sport which combines football moves, with a golf-style scoring system.

The sport of footgolf has grown over the last decade, rising in popularity among people who wouldn't normally take to a golf course.

Players take it in turns to kick a football into holes on the course with the player who completes the game with the fewest kicks the winner.

Darts will launch their new footgolf course on July 25, also promoting it during the Dartford Festival.

Footie fans don't need to worry though, with the club stating that 'Dartford games will still take priority' over the footgolf course.



HOLES: Darts will be bringing footgolf to the club



SPEED: Bosworth has his eyes on medals at Beijing already

Tonbridge walker wins championship gold

TONBRIDGE athlete Tom Bosworth became race walking British Champion over five kilometres after winning the title in the championships at the Alexandra Stadium in Birmingham.

He finished the race in 19:00.73 setting a new national record, breaking his personal best by almost 16 seconds.

While most of the athletes competing were attempting to get qualification for the World Championships next month, the five kilometre race walk was not a trials

event. That was because Bosworth had already secured selection, being chosen to compete over 20 kilometres in Beijing.

Bosworth said: "I'm over the moon, but also gutted even though I just got a 16 second personal best, as I wanted to dip under 19 minutes. I'm in amazing shape and I'm absolutely buzzing for the World Championships.

"I just want to go to Beijing and race really well. If conditions are good I'm hoping for a fast time and a top twenty finish would perfect."

Fleet take Portugal tour victory

SCORCHING temperatures can't put Ebbsfleet off their game, with the team bagging a 1-0 victory in Portugal against local side FC Farense on Friday.

The Fleet have been out training in Portugal, and jumped when they got the chance to play the tier-two club.

Despite the baking heat, and the

Portuguese club having the home advantage Ebbsfleet weren't daunted, looking strong throughout.

It was new signing Jordan Parkes who banked the Fleet's solitary goal late in the game.

The squad are now back on home soil, and gearing up for their first English friendly as they travel to VCD Athletic on Tuesday.

Keep up-to-date with all Kent's sports news via social media on:
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13	Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec Powershift, 30,023 miles	£9,605
60	Ford Fusion 1.4 Zetec 5dr, 18,254 miles	£5,889
62	Hyundai i10 1.2 Style 5dr, 36,628 miles	£5,728
12	Hyundai i20 1.6 Active 5dr, 13,051 miles	£8,704
12	Kia Picanto 1.25 2 5dr, 46,556 miles	£6,815
12	Kia Soul 1.6 GDI 1 5dr, 15,406 miles	£8,006
12	Mazda Mazda2 1.5 T52 5dr, 4,777 miles	£8,101
10	Mini Cooper Hatchback 1.6 3dr, 41,369 miles	£7,856
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61	Renault Clio 1.2 16v I-Music 3dr, 22,474 miles	£5,303
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64	Skoda Yeti Outdoor 2.0 TDI CR, 9,775 miles	£16,069
14	Smart Fortwo 1.0 MHD Passion S, 7,621 miles	£8,436
63	Subaru Legacy SE Lineartronic, 1,063 miles	£21,426

64	Subaru XV 2.0D SE Premium 5dr, 1,300 miles	£22,539
62	Suzuki Swift 1.6 Sport 3dr, 38,854 miles	£8,754
64	Toyota Aygo 1.0 X-pression, 10,216 miles	£10,012
12	Toyota Verso 1.6 V-Matic T2 5dr, 22,954 miles	£10,422
12	Toyota Yaris 1.33 VVT-i TR 5dr, 54,399 miles	£6,869
12	Vauxhall Antara 2.2 CDTi SE AWD, 17,741 miles	£13,844
08	Vauxhall Astra 1.4i 16v SXi, 59,799 miles	£3,987
13	Vauxhall Astra 1.6i VVT 16v Exclusiv, 36,382 miles	£8,710
62	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2i 12v Active, 17,104 miles	£7,031
13	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2i Energy 3dr, 8,596 miles	£7,305
14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16v Design, 1,098 miles	£8,701
61	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16v SE 5dr, 36,090 miles	£6,652
12	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16v SE 5dr, 4,940 miles	£7,853
63	Vauxhall Insignia 1.8i VVT SRI, 32,792 miles	£11,215
14	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi Ecoflex, 26,746 miles	£13,762
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